MYRMECIA

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AUST. ENTOMOL. SOC. EXECUTIVE ADDRESS
Australian Entomological Society Executive
c/- Institute for Horticultural Development
Private Bag 15, Ferntree Gully Delivery Centre
VIC 3156, AUSTRALIA

SOCIETY WEB SITE
http://www.agric.nsw.gov.au/Hort/ascu/myrmecia/myrmecia.htm

Patron
His Excellency, Dr Peter Hollingworth AC OBE, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

OFFICE BEARERS

President
James Ridsdill-Smith
CSIRO Entomology,
Private Bag No. 5. PO Wembley,
Western Australia 6014
james.ridsdill-smith@csiro.au

Vice President
Dr P.M. Ridland
c/- Executive Address above
Ph (03) 9210 9222
Fax (03) 9800 3521
Peter.Ridland@nre.vic.gov.au

Secretary
Ms N.M. Endersby
c/- Executive Address above
Ph (03) 9210 9222
Fax (03) 9800 3521
Nancy.Endersby@nre.vic.gov.au
Nancy.Endersby@sci.monash.edu.au

Treasurer
Mr I.D. Endersby
56 Looker Rd
Montmorency VIC 3094
Ph (03) 9435 4781
Fax (03) 9435 4781
endersby@mira.net

Public Officer
Dr E. Jane Wright
CSIRO Entomology
GPO Box 1700 Canberra ACT 2601
Ph (02) 6246 4183
Fax (02) 6246 4202
e.jane.wright@csiro.a

THE COVER

This illustration of an *Anopheles* male won third prize for Cherie Hart at the Society annual Insect Illustration competition.

Promotions Officer
Dr Glynn Maynard
AFFA
GPO Box 858
Canberra ACT 2601
Ph (02) 6272 3544
glynn.maynard@affa.gov.au

Chief Editor
Dr Peter Allsopp
Bureau of Sugar Experiment Stations
Private Bag 4, Bundaberg, DC 4670
Ph 07 4132 5200
Fax 07 4132 5253
pallsopp@bses.org.au

Technical Editors
Dr A.L. Bishop
Horticultural Research Station
Box 581 Gosford NSW 2250
Ph (02) 43481928
Fax (02) 43481910
alan.bishop@agric.nsw.gov.au

Dr K.L. Walker
Museum Victoria
GPO Box 666E
Melbourne Vic 3001
Ph (03) 8341 7432
Fax (03) 8341 7750
kwalker@mov.vic.gov.au

Dr A.R. (Tony) Clarke
Australian School of Env. Studies
Griffith Uni. Nathan Campus,
Nathan, 4111, Qld.
Ph & fax: (07) 3875 3846
T.Clarke@mailbox.gu.edu.au

Dr A. Andersen
CSIRO Wildlife & Ecology
Tropical Ecosystems Research Centre
PMB 44, Winnellie NT 0821
Ph (089) 22 1727
Fax (089) 47 0052
Alan.Andersen@terc.csiro.au

SOCIETY SUSTAINING ASSOCIATES

Aventis Crop Science
Integrated Pest Management (Bugs for Bugs)
Syngenta Crop Protection Pty Ltd

COUNCILLORS

Australian Capital Territory
Mr Kimberi Pullen
CSIRO Entomology
GPO Box 1700
Canberra, ACT, 2601
Ph (02) 6246 4263
Fax (02) 6246 4364
kim.pullen@csiro.au

Dr E. Jane Wright
CSIRO Entomology
GPO Box 1700
Canberra ACT 2601
Ph (02) 6246 4183
Fax (02) 6246 4202
e.jane.wright@csiro.au

New South Wales
Mr John Macdonald
The University of Sydney,
Orange
PO Box 883
Orange NSW 2800
Ph (02) 6360 5520
Fax (02) 6360 5590
Jmacdona@orange.usyd.edu.au

Dr Alan Clift
Department of Crop Sciences
University of Sydney
NSW 2006
Ph (02) 93512938
Fax (02) 93517504
clifta@agric.usyd.edu.au

Dr Robin Gunning
NSW Agriculture
RMB 944
Calala Lane
Tamworth NSW 2340
Ph (02) 6763 1128
Fax (02) 6763 1222
robin.gunning@agric.nsw.gov.au

Northern Territory
Dr Tracy Dawes-Gromadzki
CSIRO Tropical Ecosystems
Research Centre, PMB 44
Winnellie NT 0822
Ph (08) 8944 8400
Fax (08) 8944 8444
tracy.dawes-
gromadzki@csiro.au

Queensland
Ms Kerrie Huxham
NAQS AQIS
Centre for Tropical Agriculture
PO Box 1054
Mareeba QLD 4880
Ph (07) 40484600
Fax (07) 40923593
kerrie.huxham@aqis.gov.au

Ms Jane Royer
Qld Dept Primary Industries
21 Redden St
Cairns QLD 4870
Ph: (07) 40 441 640
jane.royer@dpi.qld.gov.au

Ms Bronwyn Walsh
Queensland Horticulture Institute
Dept Primary Industries
Gatton Research Station
Locked Bag 7, MS 437
Gatton QLD 4343
Ph (07) 5466 2222
Fax (07) 5462 3223
Bronwyn.Walsh@dpi.qld.gov.au

Papua New Guinea
Dr Lastus Kuniata
Ramu Sugar Ltd
P.O.Box 2183,Lae 411
Papua New Guinea
Ph 675 474 3299;
Fax 675 474 3295
lkuniata@ramusugar.com.pg

South Australia
[position vacant]

Tasmania
Owen Seeman
Department of Primary Indus-
tries, Water and Environment
13 St Johns Ave
New Town TAS 7008
Ph (03) 6233 6833
Fax (03) 6228 5123
Owen.Seeman@dpiwe.tas.gov.au

Victoria
Dr Ross Field
Dept Nat Res & Environment
16/8 Nicholson Street
PO Box 500
East Melbourne Vic 3002
Ph (03) 9637 8690
Fax (03) 9637 8131
Ross.Field@nre.vic.gov.au

Ms Catherine Mansfield
Institute for Sustainable Irrigated
Agriculture
Private Bag 1
Tatura Vic 3616
Ph (03) 5833 5225
Fax (03) 5833 5229
Cathy.Mansfield@nre.vic.gov.au

Western Australia
Dr Tara Simmul
Serve-Ag, WA
11A Pike Street
Karrinyup WA 6018
Ph 0428 369 136
mendham@smartchat.net.au

SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVES

Entomological Society of New South Wales
E.E. Taylor
5 Endeavour Avenue
La Perouse
NSW 2036

Ent. Society of Queensland
Dr J. King
QDPI Forestry Service
PO Box 631
Indooroopilly Q 4068
Ph (07) 3877 9716
Fax (07) 3371 2217

Entomological Society of Victoria
Mr Ian Endersby (acting)
56 Looker Road
Montmorency VIC 3094
Ph (03) 9435 4781
endersby@mira.net

SOCIETY HONORARY MEMBERS
Dr B.R. Champ
Dr I.F.B. Common
Dr E.N. Marks
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Dr D.F. Waterhouse

MACKERRAS MEDALLISTS
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1996 Dr M.P. Zalucki
2000 Dr P.G. Allsopp
2002 Dr G.P. Fitt

***MYRMECIA* EDITOR**
Laurence Mound
laurence.mound@csiro.au

ASSISTED BY:
Tish Silberbauer: lsilberb@metz.une.edu.au

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT
Prof. A.D. Austin
University of Adelaide,
Waite Campus, Private Mail Bag 1,
Glen Osmond, South Australia 5064

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
The Vice President & Secretary are *ex officio* members of the Conservation Committee

Convenor
Dr R. V. Gunning
Ph (02) 6763 1128
Fax (02) 6763 1222
robin.gunning@agric.nsw.gov.au

Prof Jonathan Majer (WA)
Ph (08) 9266 7041
Fax (08) 9266 2495
imajerj@info.curtin.edu.au

Dr T. New (Vic)
Ph (03) 9479 2247
Fax (03) 9478 1551
zootn@zoo.latrobe.edu.au

Claire Stephens (SA)
Ph (08) 8303 7276
Fax (08) 8379 4095
cstephens2@waite.adelaide.edu.au

Dr A. N. Andersen (NT)
Ph (089) 448431
Fax (089) 448444
Alan.Andersen@terc.csiro.au

Dr D. P. Sands (Qld)
Ph (07) 32142803
Don.Sands@brs.ento.csiro.au

Printed by:
GOANNA PRINT
151-155 Gladstone St.
Fyshwick ACT 2609
Fax (02) 6280 7369

Distributed by:
Blackwell Publishing Asia
550 Swanston St
CARLTON VIC 3053
Ph (03) 9347 0300

MYRMECIA WEB ADDRESS:

http://www.agric.nsw.gov.au/Hort/ascu/myrmecia/myrmecia.htm

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NOTICE

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COPY DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE

Material for publication in our February 2003 issue should be in the hands of the Editor before **Friday 17 January 2003**.

Copy is requested as .rtf e-mail attachments at: laurence@csiro.au

EDITORIAL

Congratulations to CSIRO on the recently announced acquisition of Joanne Daly as Division Chief in succession to the erstwhile AES President, Jim Cullen. Joanne takes over in February, and Jim has agreed to stay until the end of December. In contrast, our deepest commiserations to Latrobe on the untimely death of Ian Thornton on 1st October; he will be sadly missed by his many ex-students and friends throughout the profession.

It's all a matter of priorities – how often have we heard that! Talking to citrus growers along the River Murray recently, the subject arose of how little money and effort Australia now seems to be investing in understanding the dynamics of crop losses. During the 1960's I remember being surrounded by entomologists at tea time in the Waite – where only two are now employed. Similarly the DPI collections room at Indooroopilly used to be a hive of activity, but that expertise has evaporated and not been replaced. These days "user pays" is the accepted principle. So does the Australian crop production community not recognise their *Untaken Harvest*, or do they consider that any lost revenue could not be re-couped through a better understanding of how such losses arise. Certainly, understanding pest biology seems to have a low political priority now; the assumption being that a spray gun will solve any problem. This subject came up in some e-mail exchanges that were forwarded to me recently, the writers being particularly concerned with the dearth of insect taxonomists in Australia. One writer referred to the "de-prioritisation of taxonomy by groups such as CSIRO in recent times" – and this set me thinking about priorities in biological research. In fact, at ANIC the statistics indicate that there has been no such "de-prioritisation". In 1970 there were 5 staff employed specifically as taxonomists at research officer level, rising to 10 in the heady days of Doug Waterhouse, but settling back now to 6 or 8. Priorities? Yes, nematodes are now included within the remit of ANIC, presumably partly at the expense of Orthoptera and mites. At that great centre of taxonomic work, the British Museum, I remember when there were as many as 10 senior research scientists employed on the collections of Orthoptera and hemipteroids – whereas now there is nobody at research level on these groups, the priority being an

expanding group developing molecular techniques of pest recognition. So where have politics driven biological research priorities in Australia. Should we, or more properly should the farming and conservation communities, be lobbying parliament for increased investment in crop and natural resource management studies. Such questions are difficult, particularly now with our politicians trying so hard to convince us that border security must be this countries highest priority, and the most severe drought in decades demonstrating how weak is our grip on life on much of this continent. In insect taxonomy, Australia cannot expect to have the range of specialists needed to document the diversity of this fauna. But surely it should aim to have sufficient entomological expertise to support crop protection across the continent, as well as sufficient to provide support for a good part of the conservation work on which successful exploitation of the land ultimately depends. The Council of AES has called for a recruitment drive for our Society - clearly we need that if this Society is to survive. But if we are convinced that entomology has an important contribution to make to the economy of this nation then we have an even higher priority - to convince the public and its politicians that lack of understanding of insect biology is having a limiting effect on Australia's productivity and well-being.

LAM

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On behalf of the Core Executive and the Society, I would like to thank the Western Australia Organising Committee. Their professionalism, enthusiasm and hard work have been outstanding, resulting in this excellent scientific meeting.

The core executive formally met 12 times since the last AGM. The strong support and wise counsel of our President, Andy Austin, has again been of great help to us on a whole range of issues.

The Society continues to focus on the 22nd International Congress of Entomology 2004. The success of the Congress will require substantial input from our members, but I am sure that the benefits to the Society will be immense. Myron Zalucki will report to the Society on the progress to date for ICE.

Financial issues continue to face us with the imperative need to ensure that the Society remains financially viable. These important matters will be dealt with in detail in the Treasurer's report.

Declining membership numbers are an ever-present problem and the Executive remains alert for ways to reverse the trend. This is an area where we need the support of all members - you are the most effective recruiters for the Society. This issue is intimately related to the need for the Society to grow and develop. Peter Allen, Andy Austin and John Jennings have been working on the strategic planning process outlined at last year's meeting. Very shortly, Society members will be asked to contribute their views on the way ahead for the Society. The planning group has designed a questionnaire to help establish the views of the Society members. This will be distributed shortly.

After protracted negotiations with Blackwell Publishing Asia, the Society has signed the new contract for the production of the Journal for 2001, 2002 and 2003. The Journal is our most visible manifestation to the outside world and, in the rapidly evolving world of science literature, it is vital that it increases its impact factor. It is important that members support the Journal by submitting more high quality manuscripts. On behalf of the Society, I thank our Chief Editor, Peter Allsopp, and his Technical Editors, Alan Andersen, Alan Bishop, Tony Clarke and Ken Walker, for their invaluable contribution to the Society.

Myrmecia serves the vital role in communication of entomological news within the Australian entomological community. Laurence Mound has continued to edit *Myrmecia* with passion. Without his commitment, the Society would be a much more fragmented body. Again, it is my privilege to thank Laurence on the Society's behalf for his efforts for our Society.

In future, more and more of our business will inevitably be conducted on the Internet. The Executive and Council are exploring cost-effective ways to increase our presence on the WWW. Murray Fletcher has again served the Society well as webmaster and we thank him for his continuing efforts.

After seven years, Jonathan Majer has decided to stand down as convener of the Conservation Committee, due to pressure of work. I thank him for his service to the Society in this important role and express appreciation of the Committee's action towards conservation of insects in Australia.

Finally, I thank the members of the Executive and Councillors for their efforts on behalf of the Society. Their time is much appreciated. In particular, I thank the members of the Core Executive in Melbourne for their support and diligence. Ian Endersby has done a magnificent job as Treasurer and has continued to provide vital counsel on many issues that we have faced. Nancy Endersby has been a most efficient and conscientious Secretary and she has been ably assisted by Violeta Traicevski.

Peter RIDLAND

Treasurer's Report

Audited Accounts for 2001

The audited annual accounts are presented on an

accrual basis, that is, income and expenditure relates only to the year 2001. Subscriptions paid in 2000 for 2001 are included but those paid in 2001 in advance for 2002 are not. Accounts outstanding for payment on 31 December 2001 have been included as though paid. This gives a good view of the Society's performance for the year under review.

The accounts show a deficit of $5,493 for the year compared with a deficit of $11,418 for the previous year. This improvement is due to the $5 subscription increase approved at the Darwin conference, the University of Western Sydney carrying the loss incurred by the Manly conference and lower Executive costs due to in-kind donations. It should be recognised that Blackwell continued to pay the cost of printing *Myrmecia* for this one year beyond the expiry of our original contract.

The only qualification to the accounts is a statement that the auditor has not sighted the stock of 'Upton' publications but has accepted our stock count.

There were some difficulties reconciling the stock, accounts payable and member's subscription balances from the previous audit but the auditor has resolved these matters to his satisfaction. If we retain the current auditor for the 2002 accounts there should be no further problems.

It was necessary to withdraw about $8000 from the remaining Commonwealth Bank term deposit and the Credit Union account, which held only $168, was closed.

The Society was registered for GST during the year and the accounting systems modified to minimise the additional clerical work involved. Institutions which pay Member's subscriptions can now claim a tax credit.

Preliminary Budget for 2003

Break-even for 2003 requires a subscription rate of $95 (+ $9.50 GST) for full members and $45 (+$4.50 GST) for concession rates.

It is heavily dependent on receiving a substantial amount from an increase in journal page charges negotiated with the publisher.

It assumes that all costs associated with the 2003 AGM and Scientific Conference, including the Phil Carne prize, are carried by attendees at that conference.

Executive expenses are primarily postage and stationery; much of the remainder is received as in-kind support from the Institutions of the Executive Council. The executive has forgone budgeting for Executive travel.

A new predicted expense is the cost of a domain name for the Society's web page.

Provision of *Myrmecia* in electronic format has had little effect on publishing costs but those members who receive it are pleased with the innovation.

A small contingency amount has been included for unpredicted costs.

Recommended Subscription increase

Because of the uncertainty in the income from page charges, possible insurance premiums are unknown and, because the reserves have been running down for some years, it is recommended that the subscription rate be increased to $100 (+ GST), slightly more than the break-even rate.

It is recommended that the new member discount ($5 or $2.50) be discontinued. It is an administrative nuisance and it is not attracting new members.

Membership at September was 665, 160 of whom take Myrmecia electronically. Categories are Full (472), Joint (15), Student (63), Retired (104), Honorary (5), Affiliated (3), and Sustaining (3). Of great concern is the fact that 111 subscriptions are still outstanding and this amounts to $9597, more than the amount that had to be taken from the Term deposit to cover cash flow requirements.

I will recommend to the Members at the Annual General Meeting that they appoint B. Keele of Melican Thain Accountants (formerly Keele Management Accountants) as auditor for the year 2002.

The Treasurer's recommendations on subscription increases were accepted by Council and Members at the AGM approved the re-appointment of the auditor.

Ian ENDERSBY

Chief Editor's Report

The *Australian Journal of Entomology* continues to be the premier vehicle for the publication of entomological research in the SW Pacific region. It can only maintain this position if it continues to receive quality manuscripts and it minimizes the time between submission of a manuscript and publication of the paper. It can improve its standing through publishing a wider range of papers and by extending its circulation.

Production

Production statistics for the *Australian Journal of Entomology* for 2001-2002:

Volume	Published	Pages	Papers	Reviews
40/3	13.vii.01	92	11	5
40/4	12.x.01	98	13	0
41/1	18 i.02	98	16	4
41/2	19 iv.02	100	16	1

During the period July 2001-June 2002 the flow of manuscripts received/accepted/rejected or withdrawn was (last full year in brackets): 53/46/10 (78/59/16). The number of manuscripts received during the year was lower than that reported at the last AGM. Acceptances have been relatively constant through the year, with all issues being filled (or over filled) according to our contract with Blackwells. Volume 41 Parts 3 and 4 (due out in August and November) have been filled and papers for Volume 42 Part 1 are being accepted. Since November 2001, all manuscripts have been processed (submission to printing) electronically. This has reduced significantly the time for refereeing, in one case the author had referees' comments 1 week after submission. I now request an electronic version on submission, and send all accepted manuscripts to Blackwells electronically. Copy-edited manuscripts and proofs are sent by Blackwells electronically.

Circulation

While the number of paper subscriptions has declined slightly, due to the continued pressure on library budgets, there has been significant increase in online subscriptions developed by Blackwells through licensing arrangements with library consortia. The *Australian Journal of Entomology* is currently available to 1448 institutions around the world through these arrangements. Tangible benefits are the maintenance of paper subscriptions despite increasing pressures on library budgets, the potential increase in citations due to a wider readership, and the usage data that will indicate which topics are of interest to readers. *Journal* articles are available in full-text HTML and as PDFs, identical to the printed page. In 2001, 3334 such downloads were made and 12521 searches were made of the table of contents. All members will soon have access to the full text of the journal electronically.

The total royalty payment to the Society for the 2001 volume, comprising 8% of all non-Society revenue, was $5666, an increase of almost $1200 from 2000. The net cost of the *Journal* to members remained steady at $45 for the 2001 volumes of the *Journal* and *Myrmecia*.

Promotion

Blackwell Science continues to target the *Journal* at exhibitions at relevant major conferences and meetings, direct marketing through promotional material, especially in Europe, North America and East Asia, and through advertising in other Blackwell Science journals. All corresponding non-member authors are sent a free copy of the issue in which their paper appears and a letter offering an introductory discount of 25% on subscription. This offer is extended to their co-authors, colleagues and affiliated institutions.

A promotional postcard has been produced. The front has a full colour image and minimal text, and the back has descriptive information, editors' names, personal pricing and contact details.

Editorial team

Alan Andersen, Alan Bishop, Tony Clarke and Ken Walker have continued to give excellent service to the society as Technical Editors. The team met with Blackwells in July 2002 to discuss all aspects of editing, production and promotion.

The editorial assistance of Jenny Allsopp and the input of Alma Ross, Rosie Rush and Marion Slawson and the production team at Blackwell Publishing Asia have been vital in the smooth running of the journal and in meeting production schedules. The success of the journal is the result of their hard work and I thank them all.

The technical editors and I also thank the Editorial Board and the referees who have given expert opinion on manuscripts.

Chief Editor's gripes

If the *Australian Journal of Entomology* is to continue to be THE place to publish Australasian entomological research, members must give it support. They can do this by sending good-quality manuscripts and by assisting in the refereeing process. Again, I reiterate part of the previous year's report.

A journal can only be as strong as the quality of the manuscripts submitted. We want to publish papers that are not simply descriptive, so papers should attempt to draw out the broader implications of either applied or theoretical nature. This applies equally to taxonomic papers and those on ecology, behavior, physiology, pest management and biological control. Descriptive papers with no obvious purpose are not acceptable. I encourage the submission of many more high-quality research and, especially, review manuscripts from members in the future. However, please have your drafts read by colleagues BEFORE the manuscript is submitted - quality manuscripts will be processed quicker and with a more positive attitude. Secondly, if the Journal is to give good service to authors, we need the cooperation of referees. It is not uncommon for Technical Editors to receive one referee's report within a few weeks of sending the manuscript; that is great! However, the other often arrives after >3 months and after a lot of time wasted trying to contact the reviewer. Some reviewers never reply, and we know they aren't dead! If you are asked to referee a manuscript and can't do it within a rea-

sonable time (6 weeks), then don't pretend that you are dead, resuscitate yourself, say that you are busy and return the manuscript, so that another reviewer can be found.

Peter ALLSOPP

Bulletin Editor's Report

Views concerning *Myrmecia* within the Society, apparently even within Council itself, range from it being an essential communications medium between members concerning our professional activities, to it being a scurrilous rag too concerned with peoples' private lives. As Editor, I very much hope that we will continue to be able to achieve both these ends.

In view of the financial pressures communicated to all of us in our Treasurer's report last year, I have reduced to 24 the number of pages in the latest issue. This action was on the advice of our printer, who indicated that we could reduce production costs more by reducing the number of pages than we could achieve by reducing print-run consequent on some members taking copy electronically. Naturally this has the regrettable effect of limiting the range of content, but the combined effects should see an annual reduction of about $1000.00 in printing costs - from about $8000.00 to about $7000.00. Details from the printers invoices for the latest four issues are:

October 2001; 32 pages, 950 copies;cost $1980.00
January 2002; 32 pages, 750 copies; cost $1837.00
April 2002; 28 pages, 600 copies; cost $1804.00
July 2002; 24 pages, 600 copies;cost $1738.00

The content of *Myrmecia* continues to be varied – and variable, depending on the enthusiasm of individual Councillors. Ultimately, *Myrmecia* is a reflection of our Councillors' views of entomology in Australia, not your editor's. I can only encourage the submission of interesting entomological information from members, but continue to be disappointed at how often we hear nothing of the science that goes on at meetings and symposia all over this continent. Moreover, there are important centres of entomological science about whose work we never hear, often because the work happens to be outside the particular sub-discipline of the local Councillor.

The editorial team has been strengthened during August by the addition of Emma Cottage – not simply because of any sexist views that an attractive young woman might have greater success in extracting interesting copy from professional colleagues than the undersigned irascible OAP, but because she is the only one amongst our members with the enthusiasm to volunteer! We need to remember that the future of our science and of our profession is in the hands of our youngest colleagues – and again I urge the postgrads and postdocs at this AGM to send us a paragraph or two about their work on insects.

Laurence MOUND

Conservation Committee Report

Although few activities have been carried out under the specific banner of the Conservation Committee, members have been active in their own right on insect and related arthropod conservation matters. Due to pressures of work, Jonathan Majer has decided to step down as convener, and leave the job to someone who can devote the time and energy that the position deserves. Robin Gunning has agreed to be nominated for this position, while Jonathan Majer is happy to continue on the Committee as WA representative.

South Australia – Claire Stephens

The 5th Conference on the Biodiversity and Conservation of Invertebrates was held in December 2001 at the University of Adelaide. Over 140 delegates from across Australia, plus visitors from New Zealand, Britain and Japan participated in six symposia: Impact of Invasive Species; Molecular Tools in Invertebrate Conservation; Marine Invertebrate Biodiversity; Invertebrate Biodiversity of the Arid Zone and Ephemeral Waters; Habitat Fragmentation - Plant-Invertebrate Relationships; and Invertebrate Education and Legislation. The organising committee were Andy Austin (University of Adelaide), Steve Cooper (SA Museum), John Jennings (University of Adelaide), Muhammad Iqbal (University of Adelaide), Remko Leijs (SA Museum), Duncan Mackay (Flinders University), and Claire Stephens (University of Adelaide). The conference proceedings will be published in early 2003 as a special edition of the Records of the South Australian Museum. The 6th Conference will be held in Tasmania in 2003.

During February and March 2002, Nature Foundation SA Inc held a Butterfly Conservation Campaign. Members of Butterfly Conservation SA (BCSA) provided scientific information, advice and images for the campaign. The appeal raised over $13,000 in public donations from approximately 200 donors. The campaign had six weekly features in the Saturday edition of the Adelaide Advertiser and was the focus of a local ABC event with exposure to thousands of people, featuring radio and press promotion to highlight the plight of butterflies in SA and lift public awareness of the appeal. The funds raised will be used for a Butterfly Conservation Project conducted by BCSA in the Onkaparinga River catchment area to determine the

presence of threatened butterfly species.
Throughout the year, BCSA also continued their promotion of butterfly conservation through ongoing awareness and education activities such as talks by members, loan of display posters, providing technical advice and information to various agencies, and the preparation of a series of fact sheets. In addition, BCSA facilitated several projects, including Yellowish Sedge-skipper habitat management on the York Peninsula, and a survey of butterflies in Scott Creek Conservation Park.
PhD student Tim Moulds (University of Adelaide) has begun studying the ecology and conservation of the guano-associated arthropods of Bat Cave in the Naracoorte Caves World Heritage Area. In addition to investigating various aspects of the cave community, such as seasonality and food-web associations, Tim, in collaboration with National Parks and Wildlife SA, aims to develop a conservation plan for the guanophilic arthropod community and the large bentwing bat (*Miniopteris s. bassianii*).
As part of her work on the ecology and conservation of the endangered pink-lipped spider orchid *Caladenia behrii,* which is restricted to the Mount Lofty Ranges, Topa Petit (University of South Australia) has been attempting to find its insect pollinator. As pollination was extremely low last season (<1%) the search is on to identify the orchid's pollinator. However after two seasons, not a single pollinator has been found. Like other *Caladenia* species, the orchid is sexually deceptive, thus a male thynnid wasp is expected to be the pollinator.
Lynette Queale (Biodiversity, Survey and Monitoring, Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH)) has started to catalogue and analyse insect samples that are increasingly being collected in routine biological surveys of South Australia flora and vertebrate fauna. Insects have rarely been included in DEH's biological survey reports, thus Queale has been examining methods of efficiently sampling insects within the existing survey framework and ways to quickly identify taxa and collate data into a useful format.

Northern Territory – Alan Andersen
Alan now Chairs the Christmas Island Crazy Ant Steering Committee, which provides oversight of the management of the Crazy ant (*Anoplolepis gracilipes*) on Christmas Island. The Crazy ant is one of the world's worst pest ant species, and has infested a significant proportion of the Island's unique rainforest ecosystem. It has entirely eliminated the famous red crabs from infested areas, and presumably also had a dramatic impact on other native invertebrates. An extensive chemical control programme is currently underway. The Crazy ant also occurs quite extensively on and around the Gove peninsula in Arnhem Land, and therefore poses a serious threat to insect biodiversity in the region. The Indigenous Land Corporation has provided funding for a Northern Land Council/CSIRO scoping study on managing the Crazy ant in Arnhem Land. The aim of the scoping study is to map its distribution and conduct a preliminary assessment of its impacts, as background to a more extensive management project.

Western Australia – Jonathan Majer
Jonathan Majer has been reappointed by the State Government to serve on the WA Threatened Species Committee. Invertebrates are increasingly being considered on the large agenda, which has hitherto been dominated by plants and vertebrates.

Jonathan MAJER

33rd Annual Meeting, Fremantle
The Official Report

The 33rd AES AGM & Scientific Conference was held at the Esplanade Hotel in Fremantle, WA, 22-27 September. Attendance was better than expected, with the delegate count reaching 120 by the last day. Mother nature was cooperative in restricting the poorer weather to the times when delegates should have been attending sessions anyway! There were ten symposia covering a wide range of topics, all of which had interesting well-presented talks which were all well-attended. Of particular note was the symposium on Forensic Entomology chaired by Ian Dadour, the Director of the Centre for Forensic Studies based at the University of Western Australia. It was interesting to see how insects are now being used to answer the most intricate of questions at crime scenes. There were also 30 very high quality posters presented. Student participation was also higher than expected, with 30 student delegates present for the meeting. Congratulations are in order for Paul Grundy, the winner of the Phil Carne Prize, and for Gary Fitt, who was awarded the Makerras Medal at the Conference dinner.
The following Society Awards were also made:
Insect Illustration Competition
Colour Illustration: 1st prize: Jayne Kenyon; 2nd: Lamese Larney; 3rd: Fionna Pfenningwerth
Black and White Illustration: 1st prize: Lamese Larney; 2nd: Robbie van Hemert; 3rd: Samantha Howe.
Insect Photographic Competition: 1st prize: Tara Simmul; 2nd: Graham Brown; 3rd: Tara Simmul.
Best student oral presentation: Sarina Pearce
Best student poster: Rob Creasy
The social events, including the dinner, the opening

Our Executive - Ian and Nancy Endersby, Peter Ridland and James Ridsdill-Smith

John LaSalle, Murray Fletcher, Fiona Christie and Grant Herron

reception, and the tour, all ran smoothly and all participants seemed pleased. Thanks to the better than expected attendance and the generosity of those involved, the conference was able to make a profit for the society this year. On behalf of the organising committee, I would like to thank all that attended, and we look forward to seeing you next year in Hobart!

Owain EDWARDS

The Students Report

The 33rd Australian Entomological Society Conference and Annual General Meeting was held in Fremantle, WA, between September 22 and 27, 2002. The conference was attended by 110 delegates, 30 of whom were students. Nineteen students presented oral papers: the prize for the best oral presentation was won by Sarina Pearce from The University of Queensland for her talk on 'molecular detection of Heliothis between being alive and being spider poo'. Six students presented posters and the prize for the best poster presentation was won by home turf favourite, Robert Creasy (UWA) for his work on bluegreen aphid resistance.

The conference venue was the Esplanade Hotel – plush surroundings for those of us used to student accommodation at home and backpackers while travelling. The Espy (note use of vernacular) also provided a great buffet lunch daily – another improvement on traditional student fodder of 2-minute noodles and rice. We also organised ourselves a student dinner at the local Indian restaurant on Tuesday night…and turned up to find a bunch of our supervisors coincidentally at an adjacent table!

The conference dinner was held at Sail's local seafood restaurant, but a number of students found themselves presenting the following day, and on behalf of this group we would like to move a permanent motion that students shall never have to present following the dinner in future. Or at least keep the free beer on until 2am so that it doesn't matter anyway.

Some of our extra-curricular activities in Freo (again, note use of cool-dude speak) included visiting the Maritime Museum, the jail, the markets…um…the park….the…uh…library….oh, and occasionally one of the micro-brew pubs. Conveniently, these sold beer as "big" or "small" so there was no need to wrestle with any more new terminology.

So here we have compiled the definitive "What's Hot/ What's Not" for the AES Conference 2002….

WHAT'S HOT

Rogers Ale
Katarina and Mark
The conference lunches
Katarina and Mark
"the Chris" hairstyle
Indian Pale Ale
The conference talks
The pub scene

WHAT'S NOT

Pub closing time
Too cold for the nudie swim
Owain-can-we-go-back-a-slide-please
The hickey: "it's a skin condition!"
The conference mints
Having one's unit's mailbox urinated on at 3am
Too wussy for the nudie swim
All those tricky post-talk questions!!
We hope you can make it to Hobart for next year's conference!

Luke RAPLEY
Helen NAHRUNG
The University of Tasmania

AES 33rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 24th September 2002, Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle, WA.

Members present 37, apologies 12.

The reports presented at the meeting are reproduced in this issue of Myrmecia.

The President, Andy Austin, reported that the executive is keen to put the Society on a solid footing, financially and with respect to administration. This has led to a strategic planning exercise to be put in motion. Andy Austin, Peter Allen and John Jennings have formed a strategic planning subcommittee to find out some detailed information from members about what they want their Society to do, and a questionnaire will be distributed soon.

Keith Chandler asked if information is available from other societies around the world about how they operate. Austin answered that many large societies are struggling financially including the Entomological Society of America. Most societies have fees that are at least double the amount of those of the AES. M. Zalucki asks that efforts be made to obtain information from resignees from the AES and people who work with insects, but are not members.

The Mackerras Medal for 2002 was awarded to Dr Gary Fitt. This award by the Society for excellence in entomology is a prestigious one and Gary joins a list of very distinguished entomologists. The Phil Carne Prize was awarded to Paul Grundy for the best student paper published by the Society this year. "Augmentation of the assassin bug *Pristhesancus plagipennis* (Walker) (Hemiptera: Reduviidae) as a biological control agent for *Helicoverpa* spp. in cot-

Congress organisers - Karl Brennan and Melinda Moir with Chairman Owain Edwards

Members from many States waiting for Dinner

ton" by Paul R. Grundy and Derek A. Maelzer, *Australian Journal of Entomology*, **41**, 192-196.
A Service Award was announced and will be presented to Dr Robin Gunning for her great effort in representing the Society from 1996 – 2002 on the NSW Scientific Committee established by the NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act. Robin has also served for several terms as Regional Councillor for NSW.

33rd Conference Organising Committee Report
The Convener of the Organising Committee, Owain Edwards, thanked his fellow committee members: Terry Houston for organising entertainment for the dinner as well as the photographic and illustration competition; Jonathan Majer for organising the Conference Tour and Debbie Thackray for organising the dinner location. The Esplanade was the only hotel available that was big enough to hold the conference in Fremantle. The universities were not available during this week. Use of a professional conference organiser was sacrificed due to cost, but the committee has had no regrets with this decision. Perth Convention Bureau contributed a grant of $600 for conference advertising. The committee had a goal of 100 registrants and ended up attracting 116 (63 full – 16 late, 49 students and 8 day registrations). The conference would not have been possible without the in-kind contributions of the Organising Committee. Owain thanked Juliet Langrell for her invaluable efforts as Conference Secretariat and in arranging the technical aspects of the presentations and he thanked James Ridsdill-Smith for giving permission for his Technical staff to run the registration desk. CSIRO Entomology also covered the costs of the conference in advance. There will be 115 people at the dinner and there were almost 100 at the Welcome Reception. The budget has not yet been confirmed, but the conference is expected to make a profit.

34th AGM and Scientific Conference

Geoff Allen will chair the Organising Committee for the Australian Entomological Society and the Invertebrate Biodiversity and Conservation combined conference in 2003. The theme of the conference will be "Invertebrates, ecosystems and environmental change". The conference will be held at the Corus Hotel in Hobart, Tasmania, from Sunday 28th September to 3rd October 2003. This week is the common break for all Universities and the conference will not clash with the ESA conference. Other committee members are: R. Bashford, N. Doran, M. Driesson, S. Grove, P. MacQuillan, A. Richardson, O. Seeman. A conference management company has been employed. The venue has been booked and accommodation will be available at the hotel. Lunches will be provided. The conference dinner will be held at Meadowbank Estate. The Scientific Program is under construction. There will be one plenary speaker per day, concurrent sessions and poster sessions will take place during morning and afternoon teas. There will also be a mid-week excursion. There may be an opportunity for some of the sessions to be published.

Outgoing Council Minutes 63
Monday 23rd September 2002
14 council members present, 13 apologies.
A document outlining the duties of Regional Councillors has been prepared by the Executive.
The Treasurer recommended an increase in fees, and this was supported by council. The Treasurer received council's approval to consult with Bentleys mri for free risk analysis and insurance advice, and Council members are encouraged to submit questions and ideas about risks faced by the AES.
The Public Officer recommended that old AES records be archived by the Academy of Science, due to lack of space at CSIRO. The Academy will keep everything that will be needed if someone wanted to write a history of the Society. Council approved the recommendation and thanked the Stored Grain Librarian, Trudy Prudeaux, for finding out about the Academy's archiving project.
I. Endersby attended the Australian Institute of Agricultural Science and Technology Span Summit to find out about plans for related societies to share a Secretariat. This item turned out to be low on the agenda of the meeting which placed more emphasis on accreditation of agricultural consultants and a need for agricultural lobbying and recognition. The AES will remain on the mailing list of AIAST to see how plans for a shared Secretariat progress.
The President proposed that the Phil Carne prize criteria be reviewed so that student entomologists publishing in any Journal be eligible for the ward. He will prepare a proposal that will be submitted to the council out of session. The timetable will allow the winner to be known three months before the conference in order to expedite bookings.
M. Fletcher suggested that Toss Gascoigne, President of FASTS be invited to give a plenary address at an AES conference, and requested that the Outgoing Presidential Address be returned to its previous status of being presented without members allowed criticism or questions
Incoming Council Minutes 64
Thursday 26th September 2002,
13 council members present, 8 apologies.

The President, James Ridsdill-Smith welcomed the new council members. A membership drive must commence. All members should encourage their non-member colleagues to join the Society. The attraction of the ICE will help with the membership drive. A super early bird registration offer for the ICE will be linked to full membership of the AES and will be sent out with subscription notices in early November 2002.
A new executive will be invested at the AGM in 2004. Groups from NSW and ACT are interested in taking on the role. Both groups will discuss the possibility with their colleagues and will be prompted for a decision in six months' time. The location of the next executive will be announced at the 34th AGM next year.
Murray Fletcher and Glynn Maynard will prepare a discussion paper on moving the AES web site to an independent provider. NSW Agriculture will eventually want to stop hosting the current site since it is for an outside organisation. There will be scope to expand the new site to contain for example, Abstracts from Society conferences. Any member has the opportunity to contribute ideas to the process and should contact Murray or Glynn directly.

EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

Meeting 405 - 30th July 2002
There are still 119 outstanding subscriptions for 2002 ($9600 owed). This figure does not include suspended members.
Excess copies of the *Australian Journal of Entomology* have been sent to the executive for storage. Members will be offered the opportunity to request back issues.
A letter was received from the Minister for the Environment NSW, Bob Debus, seeking three nominations for the 2003-2006 NSW Scientific Committee. Robin Gunning wishes to stand down after seven year's service. The executive nominated Tish Silberbauer, Dave Britton and Murray Fletcher.
The Executive approved the following application for Society membership:
Dr John Botha, Entomology, Crop Improvement Institute, Agriculture Western Australia, Locked Bag No.4, Bentley Delivery Centre WA 6983, Entomologist, Plant Policy & pest Risk Analysis, Surveillance, integrated management of field and orchard mites.

Meeting 406 - 29th August 2002
The Executive approved the following applications for Society membership:
Ms Jane Royer, Entomological Technician QDPI, Dacine fruit fly diagnostics, ant diagnostics (crazy ant surveillance), identification of pests from horticultural plant pest surveys, QDPI spiraling whitefly project
Dr Judith Reinhard, Faculty of Science, Division of Botany & Zooloy, ANU; Interests: Social Insects (Termites, Bees), Behaviour, Evolution of sociality and communication strategies; experience in ethology, entomology, chemical ecology, electrophysiology, analytical chemistry
Dr Tracy Dawes-Gromadzki, CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems, Tropical Ecosystems Research Centre, PMB 44, Winnellie, NT 0822, Interests: Functioning of terrestrial arthropod assemblages through the integration of descriptive studies and manipulative field experiments; biology and ecology of termites

New Regional Councillors

Tracy Dawes-Gromadzki, Northern Territory
Tracy is a new member of the Society. She is a research scientist for CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems at the Tropical Ecosystems Research Centre in Winnellie, NT. Her fields of entomological interest are: Termite ecology and biology; Relationships between soil macroinvertebrate diversity and activity and landscape health; Impact of anthropogenic disturbances on soil macroinvertebrate biodiversity; Trophic interactions in terrestrial invertebrate food webs

Jane Royer, Northern Queensland
Jane is a new member of the Society. She is an Entomological Technician for Queensland Department of Primary Industries. Her areas of expertise include: Six years experience in dacine fruit fly diagnostics; Manager of QDPI fruit fly identification laboratory since 1997; Identification of pests from horticultural plant pest surveys; Ant diagnostics for crazy ant surveillance and response

Kerrie Huxham, Northern Queensland
Kerrie has been a member of the Society since the mid 1970s. She started her career working for the CSIRO Cotton Research Unit in Narrabri, NSW and then moved on to the CSIRO Dung Beetle Research Unit in Pretoria, South Africa, where she spent five years working on mite predators of fly eggs. Kerrie married fellow tropical entomologist, Harry Fay in Mtubatuba, South Africa, in 1983. After spending some time in Vienna she returned to CSIRO Brisbane to work for Rob Sutherst, identifying dung fauna. She has since worked on biocontrol of *Salvinia*, had a daughter and become a registered nurse. Kerrie currently manages the AQIS fruit fly monitoring program for Queensland, a position that involves working in Torres Strait and the northern cape

Bronwyn Walsh, Southern Queensland
Bronwyn has been a member of the Society since 1997. She is currently working as a vegetable pest entomologist for QDPI at the Queensland Horticulture Institute, Gatton Research Station.

John Macdonald, New South Wales
John has been a member of the Society since 1982. He has worked for NSW Agriculture for many years and is currently a postgraduate student at the University of Sydney, Orange campus, in the Pest Management group, working on habitat effect on parasitism of pergine sawflies (Perginae: Pergidae: Hymenoptera).

Alan Clift, New South Wales
Alan has been a stalwart member of the Society since 1969 and needs little introduction. He is currently an Honorary Associate at the University of Sydney.

Owen Seeman, Tasmania
Owen describes his entomological career so far: "About 15 years ago I was moving into senior high school with ambitions of becoming a marine biologist, but some serious bouts of seasickness combined with a visit to the Department of Entomology at The University of Queensland altered my path forever: I would become an entomologist. In 1992 I completed my BSc at UQ majoring in entomology and intended to work on veterinary entomology for my honours. It was then that my career took a second change for the better. The then head-of-department, Gordon Gordh, introduced me to the recently arrived Dave Walter and I became an acarologist as well as an entomologist. With Dave, I completed my honours degree on flower-inhabiting mites that are phoretic on insects and birds, and then a PhD on the astonishing diversity of mites that associate with passalid beetles. Sometime during my PhD I met the lovely Helen Nahrung. We married in 1999 and moved to Tasmania soon after. After doing a plethora of casual work (e. g. bumblebee parasite and forest invertebrate surveys), I started full-time work as a general entomologist at DPIWE in 2001. My role is varied, but includes being curator of the largest insect collection in the state. My primary interests remain acarological, especially the systematics, biology and ecology of arthropod-associated mites and early-derivative Acari. I have and have been a member of AES for two years. My current positions of interest to members are being on the organising committee for the AES conference for 2003 and editor of the Tasmanian Naturalist, a journal publishing experimental and observational work on Tasmanian fauna and flora".

Tara Simmul, Western Australia
Tara worked on lupins and weed control for her honours project at the University of Tasmania and completed her PhD on the biology of the Fire Blight Beetle at the same University in 2001. She has been a member of the Society since 1996 and is currently working for Serve-Ag in Western Australia.

Kimberi Pullen, Australian Capital Territory
Kim is Identification and Advice Officer for CSIRO Entomology, Canberra. His fields of entomological interest include taxonomy and systematics of insects (particularly Coleoptera), biogeography and biological control of weeds. Kim has also spent seven years in Mexico and, during that time, worked on biological control of Australian weeds of tropical American origin.

International Congress (ICE)

If you think about it, in two years' time we will be celebrating the end of a great Congress! The ICE executive met for the third time via a telephone hook up on the 8th May 2002. In-between times the various committee chairs have been laying the groundwork for this successful congress. We are making progress, so here is a quick up-date:

Promotion Committee: Tony Clarke has been busy with promotions. We have made contact with a number of fellow AES members going to conferences in Australia and overseas to take promotional material and we are developing a promotion pack (postcards, posters, powerpoint slides). Postcard inserts into Entomological Journals and bulletins are being arranged or negotiated.
Our next big promotion will be at the American Entomological Society meeting in Fort Lauderdale at the end of November. We have a 5 minute time slot at the opening Plenary to issue an invitation and we have space for a display. We will be handing out pins (kangaroo pins a great hit in Brazil and an ICE logo pin) as well as clip on koalas to the locals. Apart from Ashley Gordon (our PCO) and myself, other fellow Australian Entomological Society members have volunteered to help out at the display. The meeting will provide a good opportunity to make contact with potential trade display people as well potential participants.
Similar face-to-face promotion will take place at a large meeting in Japan and Europe in 2003/ early 2004.
We had shipped promotional material to a recent conference in Japan, but this appears to have not come off. Ashley is backtracking to see what went

wrong. The moral, I suspect, is that personal contacts and 'warm-bodies' *in situ* are needed to ensure things happen!
We urge AES members going to conferences to avail themselves of our promotional material and sell the ICE in 2004. Individual contact and positive word of mouth is the best advertising!

Finance Committee: Max Whitten is starting to crack the whip on fund raising. The initial float from UQ is starting to run out. We have funds in kitty from small donations from CRDC, CSIRO, QDNR&M, the AES and most recently ACIAR. We have a proposal for support pending with the Queensland Premiers Department. This proposal has been linked to support for an entomological display at the Queensland Museum that will coincide with the ICE. The hunt for the corporate dollar is now high on the agenda.
Rachel McFadyen has agreed to oversee our expenditure and books. Many thanks!
We will be offering AES members a limited time super-early bird registration in 2003 that will go out with subscriptions. This special will provide for a discount of approx. 20% - 25% on standard registration fees.
Trade exhibition sales kits will be released in October 2002 in time to promote to exhibitors at the Fort Lauderdale conference. Commercial sponsorship packages will be included. Notwithstanding any major increases in booth hire, we anticipate the cost of the booths will be in the region of $3100 AUD

Science Program: John LaSalle has started the next push for symposia and getting the sections under control. We have nearly all section conveners (local and overseas) in place. At this stage Reproduction and Development will require some attention. There will be a short meeting of conveners attending the Perth meeting to discuss process in handling symposia. To save double handling of symposia suggestions from the entomological community Ashley is looking into John (and his trusty PA Nicola King) accessing the database at Carillon.
Andy Austin has had discussions with Blackwell Publishing to produce a special issue of the Journal that might feature articles on Entomology in Australia. This would go out to all delegates at the ICE.
The Science Program will be our top priority over the next 6 months as will be selecting plenary speakers, the structure of sections (symposia and conveners) and calling for papers! Now is the time to get your symposia proposals into the system.

Social Program: Margaret Schneider has provided information relevant for collecting in Queensland and Australia. This will be up on our web site at the next up-date. A number items on the web will be updated shortly. These include: adding information on the ICE Council, calling for nominations for Certificates of distinction (an ICE Council award), updating the symposia suggestion page to include more information on the suggestion (Conveners, proposed Section, Title, Aim/theme, possible speakers/topics, likely audience, possible publication opportunity), Information on collecting, Policy on support for speakers, Policy on paper submission and up-dates on contacts.
If there are aspects of the website that you believe require attention please let us know as soon as possible. In the next year the activities by all the committee will increase. The really hard work starts now. The first major announcement and call for papers will be in early 2003. The web site will be up-dated more frequently with useful information as the Congress draws near!

Myron ZALUCKI

STUDENT FORUM

It's been quite a while since I sent in a student forum. This is partially because I've been slack, but also partially because there has been nothing submitted to me by any students. I believe this is a good, easy forum for getting postgraduate and honours student's research known to both potential employers and to others who might be doing related research, so please make use of the opportunity. Any students or recent students (ie. those that have just finished their postgraduate theses) who would like to express an opinion or to précis their research in this section, please contact me by email (Lsilberb@metz.une.edu.au) or by phone (02 6773 2287).
Congratulations to **Sarina Pearce** (University of Queensland) for winning the Entomology Society student paper prize for her talk "A molecular method for the detection of prey in the guts of Clubionidae spiders" and **Robert Creasy** (University of Western Australia) for winning the Entomology Society student poster prize for his poster on Blue-Green Aphid resistance.

Tish SILBERBAUER

PhD synopsis: **An investigation of the importance of native vegetation and winter crops to beneficial insects within cotton growing areas in Australia**. Postgraduate researcher: Ms Ingrid Rencken; Supervisors: Assoc. Prof. Nick Reid, Assoc. Prof. Peter Gregg and Dr Letitia Silberbauer. Funding: Cotton Research and Development Corporation.
A range of herbivorous insects attack cotton causing estimated yield losses of between 50-90%. The most

important pests are *Helicoverpa armigera* and *Helicoverpa punctigera* (bollworm) as these attack the developing cotton bolls. Chemical control is primarily targeted at these two pests. Other pests include *Tetranychus urticae* (red spider mite), *Thrips tabaci* (thrips), *Aphis gossypii* (aphids), *Austroasca viridgrisea* (jassids) and *Bemisia tabaci* (whitefly).The development of transgenic cotton varieties as well as pheromone traps presents viable alternatives to pesticide applications. In Australia pesticide use has been reduced by as much as 50-70% with the introduction of Bt cotton. Ironically the reduction in pesticide applications may result in the resurgence of secondary pests not controlled by the Bt cotton and pheromone traps.

Most pest control measures occur within the field boundary, events outside of the field have largely been ignored. The introduction of area wide pest management has changed this perspective and pest control measures like conservation biological control, which depend on modifying the landscape to enhance predator survival, are practiced beyond the field boundary. This is particularly relevant in ephemeral cropping systems where the entire crop is harvested and the field is left bare. It is recognized that insects are mobile, traveling across field borders, following resources both inside and outside the field as they become available.

In a recent review over 100 beneficial insects were identified in cotton cropping systems. The review highlighted that not much is known about the biology and ecology of these predators. Without this basic information it is difficult to make recommendations on manipulating the agricultural environment to provide vital resources for the predators. Yet despite the lack of any habitat modification some predators do survive within cotton fields and attack pests. They are unfortunately not always present in significant numbers to be effective in pest control. A key to manipulating or managing the predator numbers is in providing the resources supplied by native vegetation and winter crops through preservation and planting of the native vegetation. Furthermore, the willingness of predators to move from the surrounding vegetation needs to be assessed.

The aim of the PhD study is to investigate a range of habitats and assess their potential in supporting populations of generalist predators with the view to enhancing the predator efficiency in cotton agroecosystems. The study will focus on a number of areas:

1. Identification of native vegetation and winter crops that support populations of predators: - six different kinds of vegetation have been sampled within a cotton growing area. The sampling commenced in July well before the cotton season starts to get an indication of where the early season populations of predators are.
2. Identify resources utilized by predators within the vegetation types: - the presence of pupae, larvae and any eggs will be recorded in collected samples as these are indicators that the predators are using the vegetation as overwintering and oviposition sites respectively. Floral resources as well as other insect species will be noted as indicators of alternate food within that vegetation type.
3. Investigate the colonization patterns of predators within newly planted cotton fields:- the colonization pattern of a newly planted field represents the mobility of predators. It is important to have an understanding of the predator mobility as this has implications with regards to the surrounding vegetation management and farm layout.
4. Movement of predators between cotton and other vegetation types:- with the use of *Helicoverpa* eggs labeled with Rubidium the movement of predators from the surrounding vegetation will be monitored. It is important to show that predators move from the surrounding vegetation into the cotton and that that the surrounding vegetation acts as a source and not as a sink for predators.
5. Impact of landscape structure on cotton pests:- It is proposed that cotton production areas closer to native vegetation have fewer pests and greater numbers of predators. Using GIS maps of cotton production areas, showing land use and native vegetation, with data on pesticide applications, pests, predators and yields the correlation between landscape structure and pests can be measured and this proposal tested. The project is still in its early phase. I commenced my first season of fieldwork in July 2002.

Ingrid RENCKEN
Ecosystems Management
School of Environmental sciences and Natural Resources Management
University of New England
Armidale, NSW 2351
email: irencken@metz.une.edu.au

5th International Conference of Hymenopterists, Beijing

About 100 delegates and several associates from all continents (except Antarctica!) attended the 5th International Conference of Hymenopterists in Beijing from July 22-26. The conference was organised by the Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences and the International Society of Hymenopterists. Among the delegates were four Australians, Leanne Heslin

(University of Queensland), Muhammad Iqbal and John Jennings (The University of Adelaide), and John LaSalle (Australian National Insect Collection).
The scientific program was divided into 4 sessions: 1. Biology, biological control, biodiversity and ecology; 2. Biosystematics and biogeography; 3. Electronic information; and 4. Host parasitoid evolution. In all more than 90 papers and posters were given.
Among the non-scientific highlights were the fantastic scenery around the hotel (it is set in the Fragrant Hill Park), the fabulous lunches (20 courses at least every day!), and the conference trip to the wonders of the Great Wall. The associates were also well provided for and were able to take in the main tourist sites of the Forbidden City, Summer Palace, and so on.

John JENNINGS

Robert Creasy recognised by Jonathan Majer for preparing the Best Poster at Fremantle

Alice Wells exhibiting the ABRS Zoological Catalogues at the Phthiraptera Conference (*Myrmecia* 38/3 page 5)

REGIONAL NEWS

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

AFFA

Australian Plague Locust Commission

In August **Peter Spurgin** spent several weeks assisting the International Red Locust Control Organisation control red locust swarms in western Tanzania as part of a joint FAO/Norwegian project. The project will continue into early 2003 when the APLC will collaborate with FAO and CABI Biosciences to run operational-scale field trials of the Metarhizium fungus against red locust hoppers.

Biosecurity Australia

Tingkui Qin coordinated the updated AFFA's protocol for biological control agent applications for import, host-specificity test list and release, which is now available at: <http://www.affa.gov.au/plantbiosecurity>. The protocol is the result of extensive consultation with Environment Australia and Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service, and also incorporates the outcomes from two stakeholder meetings. An electronic version of the application form is also now available at <http://www.affa.gov.au/content/forms.cfm?Area=Quarantine&Category=Import>.

Plant Health Australia

During July, **Ian Naumann** (OCPPO) was in South

Africa to participate in BioNET-International's 3rd Global Taxonomy Workshop and a GBIF (Global Biodiversity Information Facility) Outreach and Capacity Building Workshop. In amongst these activities Ian caught up with hymenopterist colleagues, including chalcid specialists **Gerhard Prinsloo** from Pretoria and **Xiao Hui** from Beijing, both of whom have visited Australia in recent years. In August Ian and **David Rentz** (CSIRO Entomology) enjoyed a convivial lunch at the Museum of Australia, Canberra with former Queensland Museum entomologist, Ted Dahms. For the past several years Ted has been applying his analytical skills in a senior position in the Queensland State Government Audit Office.

In Brisbane in September Ian was at the Queensland Museum to catch up with another former hymenopterist, **Ian Galloway**, now the Museum's Director, and discuss spider common names with **Robert Raven**. At the University of Queensland Ian paid a "pastoral" visit to one of the databasing projects being funded as part of the Australian Plant Pest Database Program. **Margaret Schneider** and **Greg Daniels** hosted Ian on his first visit to the UQ insect collection since its relocation to the august, sandstone-clad Goddard Building. Next day was taken up by a meeting of the Science Advisory Panel of the Fire Ant Eradication Program.

September 9-13 Ian was in Putrajaya, Malaysia, for meetings of the Asian Global Taxonomic Initiative, Species 2000 and EASIANET (the new taxonomic network encompassing institutions in Japan, the two Koreas, Mongolia, China and Taiwan), and for informal discussions with ASEANET colleagues regarding arthropod collections.

In late September Ian and **Glynn Maynard** attended the Australian Entomological Society Meetings in Fremantle, Glynn breaking into her round-Australia, long-service-leave odyssey to join fellow Society members in the very enjoyable week and represent AFFA at a CHAEC Meeting.

Other OCPPO entomo-travelling over the past few months has included **Mike Cole** to Ulan Bator (Mongolia), Taipeh (Taiwan) and New Zealand for meetings related to biosecurity, invasives and forestry, and **Glynn Maynard** to PNG. Recent visitors to the OCPPO have included (in August) **Dick Drew** of Griffith University in connection with a proposed regional fruit fly centre and (in September) **Dennis O'Dowd** of the invasive species research centre of Monash University.

Environment Australia

The good news from ABRS is that **Mohammad Iqbal** will be joining the staff shortly as Information Officer. He worked until recently with **Andy Austin** at the Waite Campus, and although he will be involved in all areas of ABRS work, it is good to have another excellent entomologist amongst us.

ABRS reports that the *Zoological Catalogue* of pentotomomorph Heteroptera (Vol. 27.3B) — the bark bugs, stilt bugs, seed bugs, cotton stainers, burrowing bugs, shield bugs and familiar stink bugs — is now available from the publisher. A true 'labour of love' by **Gerry Cassis**, Australian Museum, and **Gordon Gross**, South Australian Museum (and the editors!), this impressive work is the second of the two-volume set on Heteroptera. Many of the species are significant economically, both as pests and as natural enemies of other insect pests, and thus this volume will be valuable to quarantine workers, agriculturalists, conservationists and other natural resource managers.

A second insect volume (Vol. 29.5), cataloguing the Buprestoidea is also with the publishers. These beetles, among them the jewel beetles, are amongst those most highly sought by collectors, and some are of serious conservation concern.

The number of names on ABRS' *Australian Faunal Directory* keeps increasing. We hope to be able to add more Hemiptera groups before the end of the year. Have you checked for groups you are interested in? Try your luck at: <www.ea.gov.au/biodiversity/abrs/abif/fauna/afd/index.htm>. Or talk to us about how we might add groups of interest to you.

CSIRO Entomology

Jim Cullen, Chief of Division and previously President of the AES, will retire on 31 December 2002. His successor will be **Joanne Daly**, who has been seconded to DEST for the last few years from CSIRO, where she is currently leading the government's taskforce on national research priorities. She will take up her position as Chief in February 2003. **John Curran**, assistant Chief of Entomology, will be acting Chief in the interim.

In August, **Cheryl Beard** and **Ray Akhurst** attended the VIIIth International Colloquium on Invertebrate Pathology and VI International Conference on *Bacillus thuringiensis* at Iguassu Falls, Brazil. Ray presented papers on the research his group is conducting with transgenic rice and on the clinical strains of *Photorhabdus*, a bacterium normally thought to be associated with entomopathogenic nematodes. Ray also took up the reins as Secretary of the Society for Invertebrate Pathology.

In July, **Jane Wright, Bruce Halliday, David Rees, Jan van Graver, Jonathan Banks, Katarina Mikac, YongLin Ren, Rashid Qaisrani, Jan Viljoen** and

Rainer Reuss of the SGRL attended the 8th International Working Conference on Stored Product Protection in York, UK in late July. Bruce presented the keynote address in the stored products biology section and YongLin Ren presented the keynote address in fumigation. **Jane Wright** was elected to the Permanent Committee of the International Working Conferences, replacing **Jonathan Banks**, who stepped down after 8 years.

ANIC

Eleven entomologists keen to acquire some of the ANIC's accumulated expertise attended this year's Technical Training Course, held in the week 23-27 September. **Phuntsho Loday** travelled the furthest, from Bhutan funded by ACIAR. **Lanni Zhang** of DPIF Northern Territory, **Angela Profke** of AQIS/NAQS and **Herbert Heinrich** of University of Newcastle were there, as well as CSIRO Entomology staff **Erica Leslie**, **Joanna Hamilton**, **Nicole Squires**, **Frances FitzGibbon**, **Trudy Staines**, **Tracey Parker** and **Judy Nobilo** – the last 3 from the "Grotty Grubs" team in Cotton Pest Management at Narrabri NSW. In addition to the usual instruction in collecting methods and specimen preparation, this year's course touched on electron microscopy and electronic imaging techniques. Watch future issues of *Myrmecia* for notice of TTC 2004.

John La Salle and **Mark Short** went west to represent the ANIC at the AGM and Conference, as well as **Martin Steinbauer** from Forest Entomology. John returned singing the praises of Fremantle watering hole Small Creatures – obviously named with insects in mind.

Volunteer **Claire Edwards** is helping out with Hymenoptera, while **Ron Clouse** of New York is visiting to work on the ants of Pohnpei, the highest island of the Federated States of Micronesia. Pohnpei's forests are in near pristine condition, and Ron's work so far indicates a fauna of over 60 species, including a number of apparent endemics. **Barry Richardson**, ex University of Western Sydney and before that a Director of ABRS, has joined us as an Honorary Research Fellow to work on jumping spider (Salticidae) taxonomy.

At the time of writing, our Diptera section is empty, with everyone in Brisbane at the Dipterology Conference, and **David Rentz** only popping in to pack his belongings preparatory to migrating north. Left alone on that floor, **Laurence Mound** has been heard to mutter the place is more like a morgue than a museum (come back **Christine Lambkin**- all is forgiven!). Laurence is just returned from seven weeks in Europe, working in museums in Frankfurt, Halle and London, but has already visited Adelaide and Loxton to talk with **Mike Keller** and **Greg Baker** about progress on their Kelly's citrus thrips project, and Narrabri to help **Lewis Wilson** with a brief course on thrips for his staff and several visiting cotton entomologists, including **Robin Gunning** and **Melina Miles** amongst others.

Kim PULLEN
E. Jane WRIGHT

NEW SOUTH WALES

NSW Agriculture - Orange Agricultural Institute

Murray Fletcher attended the 11th International Auchenorrhyncha Congress in Potsdam, Germany in August. Over ninety delegates from 24 nations attended the meeting although there were only three from the "Eastern Hemisphere". Particularly useful discussions were held with colleagues from France, Austria and Russia about current work on the higher classification of the planthopper family Cixiidae which will provide much support for an ABRS-funded project to examine the Australian fauna of the family, a joint project with **Geoff Gurr** (Univ. of Sydney, Orange) and **Marie-Claude Larivière** (Landcare Research, Auckland). Murray presented a paper on leafhopper and planthopper holotypes in the Macleay Museum, jointly authored by himself, **Max Day** and **Margaret Humphrey**, and a poster on possible silk production by a species of Australian leafhopper, jointly authored with **Debbie Kent.** Those who attended the AES conference in Fremantle might recognise these as well. Photographs of the conference are available on the Tymbal website <http://www.agric.nsw.gov.au/Hort/ascu/tymbal/potsdam.htm>. The next meeting will be in 2005 in California (in the heart of Glassy Winged Sharpshooter and Pierce's Disease country) and the 2008 meeting is planned for South Africa. While in Germany, Murray visited the Humboldt University insect collection, walked all over Berlin (including the incredible Berlin Zoo) and left his wallet on the train somewhere.

Murray and **Peter Gillespie** enjoyed the hospitality of the occidental branch of the Society in Fremantle, particularly the daily night heron show in the trees across the road from the hotel. Murray also took the opportunity to visit Curtin University to help **Melinda Moir** with some of her Hemiptera identifications and to look through some very interesting specimens collected by **Nihara Gunawardene** in the Gibson Desert.

Prior to the AES conference, Murray chaired the 13th Annual Meeting of the Council of Heads of Australian Entomological Collections held at the Western Aus-

tralian Department of Agriculture on Sunday 21st September. Twelve representatives from 11 Australian collections attended the meeting. Discussions covered options for dealing with long outstanding loans, the Cultural Gifts Program and the need for more valuers in each State for biological material, Statutory Protection for collections, changes to CITES legislation and confusion arising from a lack of consistent information from Environment Australia about these changes, and problems encountered through airport security staff opening parcels containing pinned specimens. Other matters discussed were the Australian Plant Pest Database and the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery which appears not to have had full curatorial input to the entomological collections over the past few years. Reports were tabled from most member collections and from ABRS and we ended with an excellent lunch organised by our hosts **Andy Szito** and **Natarsha Zilm** of WADA.

University of Sydney Orange
In June **Lynn Fletcher** arrived at the University of Sydney Orange from Cornell University to undertake research on the communication in pergid sawfly larvae ("spitfires"). Lynn is a PhD student in the Department of Neurobiology and Behavior and has spent the winter and spring studying *Perga affinis affinis* larval communication in what must be described as a great season for spitfires. In July, Lynn attended the International Union for Study of Social Insects meeting in Japan, presenting a poster on the timing of altruism in gregarious Hymenoptera that proposes a model for the "Brave Leader Game". Lynn will continue her studies in Orange until November when she will return to Ithaca for another winter (that will be three in a row!). However, Lynn plans to return to Orange next year to continue her research on spitfires. **Steve Wratten** (Lincoln University, NZ) visited **Geoff Gurr** and the Pest Management group at University of Sydney Orange for a week in mid September. During his stay in Orange Steve caught up with Geoff and his students discussing the various postgraduate research projects that have commenced this year. Steve joined Geoff and the other members of the group and contributed to the "Sustainable Development Showcase held at Sydney University on the 17th September where he gave a key note address on "An ecologist's view of sustainable development".

Geoff Gurr, **Mahmuda Begum**, **Aaron Simmons** and **John Macdonald** attended the AES conference in Fremantlle where they presented papers. These papers reported on a wide variety of topics including "Australian Lucerne Yellows", use of botanical extracts to manage Potato Tuber Moth, enhanced insect pest management in vineyards using flowering cover crops, trichomes and their role in tomato insect pest resistance, and habitat effect on parasitism of spitfires. The conference venue and location were wonderful and the group is in agreement that it was a great conference!

Tamworth Centre for Crop Improvement
Emma Cottage is a very happy person after recently submitting her PhD thesis. **Tish Silberbauer** and **Robin Gunning** helped Emma celebrate the event with the help of a bottle of champagne! In August Robin Gunning attended the IUPAC Pesticide Chemistry in Basel - just avoided the European big wet!

University of New England
Also in August, **Peter Gregg** attended an international meeting on semio-chemicals in Hamburg.

Australian Cotton Research Institute, Narrabri
Lewis Wilson and **Laurence Mound** organised a thrip identification workshop at Narrabri in early October - it was voted by all those who attended as a bit of "real entomology". [although it apparently failed to convince some of those attending that a single thrips is not a "thrip", any more than a single sheep is not a "ship" Ed.].

Elizabeth Macarthur Insititute, Camden
Congratulations to **Grant Herron**, who has just been promoted to Senior Research Scientist - good on you Grant!

Robin GUNNING
John MACDONALD

NORTHERN TERRITORY

Department of Business, Industry, Resource and Development (formerly DPIF) Entomology Section
The annual DBIRD Entomology Section Conference was held at the Novotel Atrium in Darwin on the 2-3 October. Staff presented results from projects carried out in the last 12 months and discussed outcomes and future work plans. Members of Horticulture, Interstate Quarantine, NAQS, Plant Pathology, the Pesticide Co-ordinator, Resource Protection Director and Horticulture Director also attended sessions to discuss recent developments and joint projects.
Graham Brown attended the CHAEC meeting and a one-day session at the AES Scientific Conference in Perth during September. Graham, **Brian Thistleton** and **Michael Neal** were recently called out to in-

spect an infestation of termites at Stokes Hill Wharf. The termites were feeding on the timber of the underside of the wharf platform. Brian and Michael have continued with their studies on new products for the control of *Mastotermes darwiniensis*. This includes products applied as soil injections and a growth inhibitor applied as a bait. Brian is also working on pests of ornamentals, and he and Michael are currently investigating a pyralid borer that is causing substantial damage to Alpinias. In October Brian attended a workshop to identify major pest and disease risks for the Australian nursery industry at Horticulture Australia in Sydney. **Lanni Zhang** has just returned from the ANIC Technical Training Course held in Canberra during September. Lanni enjoyed the "cool change" and was amazed that you can actually take a 25 minute walk to work without sweating!

Megan Connolly has been jet-setting across the country attending a residential school for her Horticultural course in NSW and travelling to Darwin to survey citrus orchards and attend the annual Entomology Section Conference. Back in Katherine she has been carrying out her regular monitoring of mangoes and citrus and also dealing with various enquiries such as the identification of Gordian worms in kitchen sinks and biting beetles in tree hollows detected by a didgeridoo harvester. Megan and **Deanna Chin** have been monitoring the level of damage to fruit caused by the local dimpling bug (*Campylomma austrina*) in mango orchards in Katherine and Darwin. During October Deanna and **Gerry McMahon** (from Horticulture) held a field day for the NTHA Rambutan Association to demonstrate monitoring for pests and beneficials and the use of biological control with two commercially produced predators. Deanna and **Stuart Smith** travelled to an organic Kakadu Plum plantation at Wildman River to train workers on insect identification and monitoring.

Haidee Brown and **Heather Wallace** have continued to work on the Economic Insect Collection to enter specimens on the Australian Plant Pest Database associated with Plant Health Australia. The Collection Room that holds the specimens has just been equipped with a self contained air-conditioner and dehumidifier that has stabilised the temperature and humidity and reduced the incidence of fungal growth on specimens. The only drawback of this machine is that is makes a loud hum and forces staff to have shouting sessions when working together!

Finally - a bit of free advertising! Entomology, along with Plant Pathology and Horticulture, have produced an illustrated field guide on the Pests, Diseases and Disorders of Mangoes in the NT. This is available from the Publications Section of DBIRD.

Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Environment Parks & Wildlife Service

The NT threatened species lists are under review, and **Colin Wilson** is making sure that invertebrates get a guernsey. The spectacular Leichhardt's grasshopper is a highlight of the lists, but the darned thing keeps on turning up in the most unexpected places and may be much less rare than previously believed. A population recently turned up next to the popular tourist oasis of Edith Falls, while the latest specimens were found near Ngukurr in southeastern Arnhem Land, at least 300 km from any previous record.

Colin has just returned from Nhulunbuy in northeastern Arnhem Land where he was seen poking around in rainforest patches looking for the rare Gove crow butterfly and the still, for the time being, extinct Darwin wood cockroach. Unfortunately the exotic yellow crazy ant proved not so elusive. **Ben Hoffmann** of CSIRO stayed on in Nhulunbuy in an attempt to fully map the extent of the infestation.

Northern Australia Quarantine and Inspection Service

With the survey season finished in the Top End for the year, **Glenn Bellis** had time to attend meetings of the National Arbovirus Monitoring Program, where he drew the short straw to succeed **Alan Dyce** as reference entomologist for biting midges, and the NTDBIRD Entomology Branch Conference. He also attended a training camp for Aboriginal rangers near Ngukurr that may feature in a future article on AQIS in Australian Geographic. A follow up survey for the Asian Citrus Psylla, which was recorded south of Darwin in 1915, failed to yield any of this pest allowing the local citrus industry to breathe a sigh of relief.

CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems, Darwin Invertebrate Section

Alan Andersen is currently in South Africa. He has already spent some time at Potchefstroom University working on various projects using ants as bioindicators and has visited a range of people involved with savanna ecology and management (particularly to do with fire), and invertebrate biodiversity and bioindicators. The main aim of Alan's visit is to develop collaborative links with South African savanna researchers. University of Stellenbosch PhD student, **Kate Parr**, will be visiting the Darwin lab for a month en route to the Ecological Society of Australia conference in Cairns in December. Kate is looking at responses of savanna ant communities to fire, and Alan and Kate are working together to apply Alan's ant functional group scheme to South Africa. She will do a small comparative Australia/South Africa project

while she is in Darwin.

Tracy Dawes-Gromadzki has spent the last few weeks identifying termite samples collected over the past few months. These samples have been collected from a range of studies, forming part of a sub-project within the Tropical Savannas Management CRC that looks at the effects of management on the functional role of macro-invertebrates. Fieldwork for this project has also been conducted recently, with another successful field trip to the Victoria River District in the NT as part of our ongoing collaborative work with **Alaric Fisher** from the Biodiversity Unit of the NT Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Environment. This work is being evaluated within the context of potential links between invertebrate diversity and functional group composition and vertebrate diversity and abundance. Some of Tracy's time has also been spent sampling the 20 manipulative experimental sites set up in Darwin, looking at the effects of mulch and macro-invertebrate activity (± mulch x ± insecticide) on initiating the restoration process through improvement in soil condition. Mulching with food sources that are attractive to termites (straw and some wood) has kickstarted macro-invertebrate activity, with termites having so far successfully invaded the mulched, non-insecticide treated plots. Both grass- and wood-feeding termites have moved in with other macro-invertebrates also noted in smaller numbers.

Ben Hoffmann is currently in Arnhem Land looking for one of the world's worst ant pests, the Yellow Crazy Ant (*Anoplolepis gracilipes*). The Yellow Crazy Ant has infested an area of the Gove peninsula in eastern Arnhem Land and represents a very serious environmental and economic threat to northern Australia.

Tracy DAWES-GROMADZKI

QUEENSLAND – NORTH

QDPI Cairns

Northwatchers **Mark Stanaway**, **Sharyn Foulis** and **Merrick Ekins** revisited the Somerset (Cape York) redbanded mango caterpillar infestation in August, after staghorn pruning of mangos in June. Unfortunately trees that were difficult to access were unable to be pruned and the villain is still at large.

Spiraling whitefly has continued its move south in Queensland to the urban areas of Mackay. The parasitic wasp *Encarsia* has been harvested from Cairns populations by DPI staff and sent down for release at the newly infested sites.

Bob Corcoran from QHI has recently been awarded his PhD by the University of Queensland. The title of his thesis is: *Fruit fly (Diptera: Tephritidae) responses to Quarantine heat treatment*.

Sharyn Foulis has taken 6 months LWOP to try her hand in the grape/wine industry in Sydney.

QDPI Mareeba

Harry Fay, **Bruno Pinese** and **Stef de Faveri** visited WA in September to participate in the AES Conference. Harry delivered a talk on the first record of a *Longchea* sp. (Diptera) in Australia, attacking passionfruit at Kuranda. It has not yet been determined whether this Dipteran poses a threat to commercial passionfruit production. Stef and Bruno presented a poster on crazy ant eradication. Harry and Stef took the opportunity to meet with **Stuart Learmonth** and **Shane Trainer** of WA AG in Manjimup to discuss a new National Soil Insect monitoring project in potatoes, aimed at predictive spray application. Stef heads the QLD section of the project.

Geoff Monteith and **Geoff Thompson** of the Qld Museum spent two weeks early in September, supervising entomology projects behind Ingham and surveying insects near Mareeba. Geoff M. and **Ross Storey** of Mareeba DPI also did some work on a paper describing near species of *Onthophagus*.

Robert Broch of California visited the Mareeba DPI Insect collection late in September. Robert's main interest is life histories of stick insects

AQIS/NAQS Mareeba

Barbara Waterhouse and **Judy Grimshaw** carried out a survey in the Torres Strait in May, where they were accompanied by **Marjorie Kame** from NAQIA in Port Moresby. The wet season was not quite over, and demonstrated its powers of 'deluging rain' causing last second modifications to plans. In late August and early September the trio formed part of a survey team again, this time in PNG, where they spent thee weeks working their way south from Vanimo in the north, staying within 35 kilometres of the border with West Papua. North of the mountains plans were once again affected by rain, but south of the mountains travel plans were affected by drought. The water in the Fly River had dropped dramatically, in only a few weeks, making it impossible for supply barges to bring fuel (and food) up to Kiunga. Residents in the Western Province are already experiencing food shortages and forced to walk long distances in search of drinking water.

While Barbara was on survey in PNG, those attending the Weeds Conference in Perth heard the announcement that Barbara was this year's winner of the Council of Australian Weed Science Societies medal. This is awarded annually, and she was chosen by her peers for outstanding service to weed science over a period of at least 10 years. Those who

Kylie Anderson warning the public about red-banded mango caterpillars (*Myrmecia* 38/3 p. 14)

have been the beneficiary of advice or identifications from Barbara will know why this was a well-deserved award.

Kerrie Huxham presented a talk at the AES conference in Fremantle.

Peripatetic peregrinations by north Qld BSES entomologists

Life has recently been a bundle of laughs for the grub people at Bureau of Sugar Experiment Stations. Or has it been light relief from the joy of being personally responsible for the activities of all their white grub pets, before next season?

Peter Allsopp continues to rise to new heights in BSES and will soon be moving from Bundaberg and his former position as Program Leader for the crop production program, to co-ordinate 'special projects' for the CEO in Brisbane.

Mohammed Sallam spent the last 3 years at the BSES Tully office, grew webbed feet and began to croak. He is now recuperating at the Cairns office whence he is currently producing a dossier of monumental proportions on the Crambine moth-borer *Chilo.*

Peter Samson, based at Mackay, participated with plant pathologist **Robert Magarey** in a survey of possible quarantine risks amongst wild and on cultivated sugarcane species growing at communities along the western Gulf of Carpentaria, and the coast of the Northern Territory and northern WA, in early June. He reports he had very limited opportunities to further study Lycaenidae in the region.

Also in June, **Keith Chandler** based at Cairns accompanied entomologists **Lastus Kuniata** from Ramu Sugar in PNG and Djoko Pramono from ISRI at Pasuruan in Indonesia, and plant pathologists **Barry Croft** from BSES and **Lilik Putra** from ISRI on a survey of sugarcane insects and diseases on eastern Indonesian Islands - Sumba, Flores, Sumbawa, Lombok, and Bali. Apart from the smut (the fungal kind) imported from Java onto Sumbawa, Keith reckons a major quarantine risk from the area is from importing drywood termites and borers in the wooden artifacts produced for the tourist trade, and perhaps in wooden furniture. Artifacts on walls of the local

buildings are often infested.
Whilst still stimulated by this frenzy of activity, Peter and Keith were asked to go in early August to a private 60,000 ha sugarcane plantation on southern Sumatra and review the possible role of moth-borers (*Scirpophaga* and *Chilo*) in declining production, and the local pest management program. It appears that the hexapods had a substantial but relatively minor part; the pests most restricting production were bipedal and relatively well educated.
To recover from all this activity, Peter and Peter and Keith recently took holidays in lovely Perth and environs to attend and enjoy the Society conference and admire the wildflowers and wineries: in that order?

Kerrie HUXHAM

QUEENSLAND - SOUTH

DPI Queensland Forestry Research Institute
QFRI staff made a number of forest surveillance trips, including a 17 day trip through Cape York by **Geoff Pegg** and **Murdoch De Baar** spending 7 nights in sleeping bags (one of which was in close proximity to several salty crocodiles & another surrounded by wild pigs). Areas visited included: Holroyd R. crossing (where Murdoch was bitten by a spider in his sleeping bag), Wenlock River, Heathlands, Captain Billy's Landing (where Geoff thought he might catch a fish, but didn't notice the waterhole with slide marks), Lockerbie Scrub, The Tip, Somerset, Mutee Pt., Jacky Jacky Ck. (where we used 4 x 2's to keep off the biting midges), Lakefield area, and Running Creek SF. near Lilyvale Station. For anyone thinking of sleeping at Captain Billy's Landing, remember this is the stronghold of the Snap jaw ants *Odontomachus*, and their sting is PAINFUL.
Judy King (Chair) and **Chris Fitzgerald** (Secretary) attended the annual meeting of the National Sirex Coordination Committee in Melbourne to present the State report and discuss funding and research strategies for this year. They relinquished their roles after a 2-year term and these positions will be taken-up by State Forests of NSW. Judy and Chris developed and conducted a training workshop on the biology and control of Sirex Wood Wasp at Stanthorpe, which was attended by relevant management and field staff from DPI Forestry. As Sirex advances north towards Queensland, monitoring has increased.
Jock Kennedy continued to work on the West Indian Drywood Termite (*Cryptotermes brevis*) programme listed under Queensland "*Diseases In Timber Act 1975*". Nine buildings were fumigated this year before the November flight season. Jock also spent time monitoring for Asian Gypsy Moth (*Lymantria dispar*) around Brisbane Ports and airports for AQIS and worked on Sirex Wood Wasp (*Sirex noctilio*) with **Chris Fitzgerald** and **Judy King**.
In February 2002 during annual Forest Health Surveillance (for pests & diseases), **Murdoch De Baar** (Senior Forest Entomology Technician) and **Michael Ramsden** (Forest Health Surveillance Officer) discovered an unidentified pinhole borer (Curculionoidea: Scolytidae) in a patch of lightning-struck, 14-year-old, dying plantation *Pinus caribaea* var. *hondurensis* at Lannercost State Forest (Ingham area, North Queensland). This insect attacked trunks under the bark in a mess of tunnels (similar to that of *Ips grandicollis*) and also caused perpendicularly penetrating tunnels (similar to that of *Xyleborus perforans*). Both adults and larvae were present in tunnels. This scolytid beetle was *Xyleborus*-like in appearance, and slightly smaller than *Xyleborus perforans,* and with few distinguishing features, apart from a prominent forward-projecting circle of long hairs from the fronsclypeal area of its head. **Roger Beaver** identified the beetle as *Cyrtogenius brevior* (Eggers). The long hairs on the frons are a female character, absent from the male. Around 100 species have been described in the genus from the Oriental and Afrotropical regions, and there are many more undescribed. The only reference to this genus in Australia was in S.L. Wood 1986, P.74. The species is recorded from Burma to the Pacific islands, and is the most widespread in the genus. Roger believes that no species of *Cyrtogenius* is known to be of any economic importance. They are normally bark beetles breeding in dying and dead trees, and are not known to vector any pathogens. However, the biology of almost all species is inferred from what is known of just a very few species.
Currently **Michael Ramsden** and **Jock Kennedy** are undertaking low level aerial surveillance over the DPI Forestry plantation estates within the Atherton and Ingham Forestry Districts. These flights are undertaken at 70 knots in a light aircraft at approximately 150-200 m above the ground, with the entire estate being systematically covered by surveying along transacts spaced at 1 kilometre intervals. The waypoints of areas of concern are logged using GPS units linked to Compaq iPaq palm computers running ArcPad software. Using ArcView software detailed maps can then be prepared using the aerial data, for ground proofing/detailed surveys of the observed disorders.
Simon Lawson visited the Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute in Tsukuba, Japan, in July 2002 on a Japan Society for the Promotion of Science short stay scientific visit to test the susceptibil-

ity of exotic *Pinus* spp. to the pine wilt nematode (*Bursaphelenchus xylophilus*). This project was developed following an incursion of the nematode vector, the longicorn *Monochamus alternatus*, from China, in Brisbane in June 2001. Unfortunately, severe crow attack (don't ask!) on many inoculated seedlings reduced the significance of data collected this year. Simon is planning to repeat these experiments next year, hopefully excluding crows from the equation this time!

Work by the "Hardwoods Queensland" team at QFRI and the Farming Systems Institute is hotting up, identifying the pheromone components of the giant wood moth (GWM) (*Endoxyla cinerea*). The GWM is a significant pest of eucalypts grown in plantations for solid wood products in SE Queensland and Northern NSW. Larvae are doing well in culture on an artificial diet and a number have pupated successfully, with one female moth already emerging in September 2002 in the lab. An expanded trapping program for adult moths as they emerge in the field is planned from December to March to obtain females for GC-MS analysis. Testing of some candidate pheromone compounds for activity against males during the summer is also planned.

Brenton Peters and **Chris Fitzgerald** visited their Townsville termite trial site in September to inspect baiting work with *Coptotermes acinaciformis* and timber-preservation work with the giant northern termite *Mastotermes darwiniensis*. Despite dry conditions, the termites are behaving themselves. Another trip is planned prior to the onset of the summer heat.

Ross Wylie and **Manon Griffiths** are currently in Thailand conducting workshops on the cedar shoot caterpillar *Hypsipyla* (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae).

Brenton PETERS

Queensland Department of Primary Industries

Geoff Waite undertook a three week trip around the globe during September, that addressed various aspects of a wide-ranging project portfolio. He spent a week working with **Jeff Aldrich** at the 'Chemicals Affecting Insect Behaviour Laboratory' USDA, Beltsville, on fruitspotting bug pheromones. Following this he attended the XI International Congress of Entomology at Merida, Mexico where he presented a poster on mite management in strawberries and was able to discuss mites with many of the world's mite experts. Continuing on to the UK, Geoff visited 'The John Innes Centre' at Norwich in connection with insect vectors of plant diseases. This was in relation to his involvement in a project that involves a phytoplasma that is implicated in the strawberry disease, lethal yellows.

Frank Page and Peter Nimmo have been conducting a field insecticide trial against WFT in apples. We are also trying to assess the differences in varietal susceptibility to attack by WFT. Numbers of WFT should be sufficient to put pressure on the cultivars as we are getting about 120 WFT per 100 flowers in one orchard. We are also trying a reflective mulch in an organic orchard. So far, it does not seem to be reducing the numbers of thrips. The warm, dry spring is favouring WFT activity. Numbers of apple dimpling bugs have ranged from moderate to high in district orchards.

Continuing on the thrips theme, **John Donaldson** lead further thrips identifications workshops for QDPI entomologists, **Iain Kay**, **Frank Page**, **John Brown**, **Siva Subramaniam, Brendan Nolan** and **Larry Cooper**. Thrips and whitefly are a topical issue throughout the State.

John Duff has started work in a four year IPM in beans project. He and his team will be surveying Queensland bean crops for pests and natural enemies. Following this, accessing pesticides that will fit an IPM system and developing other IPM tools will be key activities.

John Rogers and **Peter Green** have left QDPI as part of a VER scheme. Their expertise will be sorely missed.

Chris Freebairn - leaving his old friend citrus leafhopper, *Empoasca smithi*, and its egg parasitoids *Stethynium* nr *empoascae* and *Anagrus baeri* behind - is embarking on a new project. Together with **Geoff Waite** and **The Dans** (**Smith** & **Papacek**) he will test the feasibility of rearing the predatory mite *Euseius victoriensis* for augmentative release into citrus for eriophyid mite IPM. He is also involved with Dan Smith in a project on integration of new chemistry into citrus IPM. Another project involves a group at Nambour's Maroochy Research Station - **Noel Vock**, **Loraine Chapman**, **Bob Nissen**; and in head office - **Cathy Campbell** *et al.*, in a project on the needs and options for a web based Image Management System for DPI.

Bronwyn WALSH

TASMANIA

University of Tasmania

School of Ag. Science/CRC for Sustainable Production Forestry

CRC activity has been mostly of the political kind. In August the centre went through and was given a very favourable five year review. It is now preparing for the CRC application round interview in October for the new CRC for Tree Technologies. Along a similar line

the school of Agricultural Science hosted a major visit from the Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (MARDI) in September where a MOU was signed between the state government and MARDI concerning agriculture. **Geoff Allen**, **Helen Nahrung** and **Luke Rapley** all went to Perth for the Australian Entomological Society conference. Geoff Allen also took the time out to discuss research and renew acquaintances with **Ian Dadour**, at the new Forensic Science Centre at UWA and along with Helen Nahrung visited **Leigh Simmons** to discuss research on beetle mating. **Mamoru Matsuki**, made a later visit to Western Australia to discuss pest sampling strategies with Timbercorp in Albany.

Forestry Tasmania (FT).

By the time this is published, we should have made a start on submitting specimen records from FT's Tasmanian Forest Insect Collection (**TFIC**) to the Australian Plant Pest Database, under a contract recently agreed with Plant Health Australia (**PHA**). We hope the external funding provided by PHA will kick-start the process of reorganising the entire TFIC to better support invertebrate pest, quarantine and biodiversity management issues relevant to Tasmanian forestry.

Dick Bashford has recently commenced the second phase of a Port Surround Incursion Detection program, with the testing of a range of static traps and lures for timber insects. Trapping to monitor for Asian gypsy moth incursions has also begun at five Tasmanian ports. In September Dick attended the annual meeting of the Council of Heads of Australian Entomological Collections in Perth, followed by the AES Conference in Fremantle, where he displayed several posters on the canopy fogging work at Warra Long-Term Ecological Research (LTER) site. While in WA, Dick took the opportunity to visit tuart dieback areas in Yalgorup NP with CALM officers, and to examine port surveillance/detection techniques for exotic insect incursions at the Port of Fremantle with AQIS officers.

Simon Grove and **Marie Yee** (University of Tasmania/CRC for Sustainable Production Forestry) took the opportunity provided by National Science Week in August to promote public awareness of coarse woody debris (CWD) biodiversity and management issues, especially with regard to research at Warra on saproxylic insects. Their ideas and research were reported in the local media, and were the subject of field days at Warra with the Tasmanian Field Naturalists Club and with two local schools. Simon is co-author, with **Jeff Meggs** and **Adrian Goodwin**, of a FT publication, due for release soon, reviewing "biodiversity conservation issues relating to CWD management in the wet eucalypt production forests of Tasmania". The report pays particular attention to saproxylic invertebrates, including a case study of the Mount Mangana stag beetle. Contact <simon.grove@forestrytas.com.au> for further details of content and availability. Jeff recently secured a substantial AFFA award to undertake an overseas study tour to investigate mitigation measures for CWD conservation management. Next April he'll be jetting off to talk CWD management with forest managers in Europe and North America.

Jane Elek also attended the 33rd Conference in Fremantle, a great opportunity to catch up with WA entomological colleagues especially. Following the conference Jane met briefly with **Janet Farr** and **Ray Fremlin**, from CALM in Manjimup and spent a day with **James Balinski**, Eucalypt Pest Manager at Timber Corp, Albany.

Forest Health has had new additions recently with **Nita Ramsden** and **David deLittle** joining the team. Nita will be involved in forest health surveillance and GIS in the southern half of the state, while David will help with health surveys in the north until **Sue Jennings** starts part time in May 2003.

Tasmanian Institute of Agricultural Research

The Weed Biological Control group, led by **John Ireson**, is continuing research and extension into the sustainable management of weeds based on the use of biological control. Weeds currently being targeted include ragwort, gorse, horehound and boneseed. Recently, John and his two PhD students, **Karina Potter** and **Jamie Davies**, attended the 13th Australian Weeds Conference in Perth where they presented a poster and paper titled 'Attempts to establish biological control agents for boneseed in Tasmania'. Karina is in the final months of thesis writing; she is examining the factors affecting establishment and efficacy of the ragwort flea beetle whereas Jamie is only halfway through his research in the development of an integrated management strategy for gorse.

Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment

Lionel Hill attended the annual workshop of the national diamondback moth project in Adelaide, hosted by SARDI. Lionel and **Kellie Gillespie** have been busy entering pest records for the new Australian Plant Pest Database based on specimens in the New Town Laboratories collection. Lionel has also been working with IT staff to transfer the Tasmanian Plant Pest Database from Microsoft Access to Oracle software for wide area capacity within DPIWE prior to linking to the national APPD network.

Owen Seeman attended the CHAEC meeting and the AES in Fremantle where he presented his and Helen Nahrung's work on the sexually transmitted mites of beetles. Almost all of his working time is now spent preparing for a demonstration that methyl bromide will kill codling moth eggs on cherries. However, occasional spare evenings and weekends are spent working on sexually transmitted mites, and adding some newly acquired mites from Thailand and North Vietnam into his revision of the Fedrizziidae.

Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery

From August through October the museum displayed its second collection of extraordinary beetles from **George Bornemissza** and his coleopterist colleagues. This beautiful collection has impressed thousands of visitors. **Kaye Hergstrom** and **Roger Buttermore** recently completed their work on the environmental impacts of bumblebees, and Kaye presented their results at the recent AES conference. Roger has also made his move to the USA permanent, and we all wish him the best for the future.

Owen SEEMAN

VICTORIA

Keith Turnbull Research Institute, Natural Resources and Environment

Tyria jacobeae, a biological control agent for ragwort, has established in Australia, near Cape Schank, on Victoria's Mornington Peninsula. Several attempts to establish this moth have been made over the last eight decades, with KTRI's recent efforts apparently the first to succeed.

Kerry Roberts reports the Paterson's curse flea beetle *Longitarsus echii* is established at several sites in Victoria, as well as locations in other states. During August 2002, over 10,000 adult flea beetles were harvested from established sites and redistributed to 24 new sites throughout Victoria. This is the first time collection of such numbers has been possible.

Also during August **Greg Lefoe** and **Isabel Valenzuela** travelled to the lovely historic township of Beechworth to present information on elm leaf beetle management to tree managers from north east Victoria and southern New South Wales.

KTRI weed scientists were well represented at the 13th Australian Weeds Conference in Perth, with 13 papers and as many posters on topics including classical biological control of weeds.

Institute of Sustainable Irrigated Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment

The Plant protection group at Tatura is currently enjoying a visit from **Mark Whalon** from Michigan State University who will be working on a range of things with **David Williams**. Mark will be in Tatura on and off during the summer, if you would like to meet with him please contact David Williams on 03 58 33 5222. Alex has also just returned from the Australian entomology conference in Fremantle after making a presentation on coddling moth.

Mofakhar Hossain has been very busy working for 3 months with **Robert Bartlett** at the USDA in Illinois looking at attractants for Capophilus beetle. We look forward to his return by mid November.

Cathy Mansfield has had a very pleasant trip in Northern Italy examining the apple industry around Bolzano. She has now returned and is looking forward to the start of a new project in which she will work with **Robin Gunning** and **Glenn Graham's** team at the University of Queensland on *Helicoverpa*.

Institute for Horticultural Development, Natural Resources and Environment

Mali Malipatil participated in the workshop on Agromyzidae on 1 October 2002 conducted as part of the 5th International Congress of Dipterology held at the University of Queensland, St Lucia. He also managed to visit the collections at QDPI, UQ and QM to examine specimens of *Liriomyza* leafminers required for an ACIAR funded project based at IHD, as well as of certain heteropteran bugs.

Violeta Traicevski from IHD, Knoxfield is working on a new carrot project in Victoria. Violeta will be surveying carrot crops for aphids and hopes to conduct some virus transmission trials on a new virus, transmitted by aphids known as Carrot Virus Y. This is a newly described virus found in all carrot growing districts in Australia. Violeta is working closely with the Agriculture Department in WA.

Cathy MANSFIELD

Entomological Society of Victoria

Our annual general meetings feature the Presidential Address, and this year **Allan Kellehear** introduced us to "Waiter there's a fly in my soup: the role of insects in humour". Other than the copyright Larson it appears that most examples originate in the Australian outback.

In June **Kelvyn Dunn** showed a video he had made of butterfly behaviour at Cape York Peninsula and in August **Ross Field** gave a talk on the ecology of butterflies in Victoria's Mountain Ash forests.

Recent issues of the journal have included articles about mating in butterflies and larval food plants. Papers on entomological techniques have covered the use of sticky traps for monitoring forest pests, investigating galvanised iron sheets as a trapping medium, and preservation methods for cossids. To

demonstrate that the Society is interested in more than "butterflies and big beetles" there was a checklist of Victorian lycosids and we are eagerly awaiting a talk by **Jennifer Shield** on her recently published book on the Spiders of the Bendigo District.

Each year the Society sponsors bursaries in the Victorian Science Talent Quest and our winners were **Jessica Alizzi**, **Eleni Tsinissidis** and **Anthony Liddy**, all Lower Primary entrants who entered posters on the Life Cycle of the Australian Sheep Blowfly.

We successfully nominated our long serving committee member **Ian Endersby** for the Australian Natural History Medallion for his contributions to ornithology and entomology. The medallion will be presented by the Lieutenant Governor of Victoria and Ian has chosen the topic "How to be a Field Naturalist" for his address in reply.

Daniel DOBROSAK

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

CSIRO Entomology

Life at CSIRO Entomology over the last couple of months has been busy, verging on hectic with almost all being involved with the organisation of local conferences in September. **Owain Edwards** and **John Matthiessen** were on the organising committee and **Juliet Langrell** was the conference secretariat for the AES Conference, while **Rick Horbury**, **Celia Pavri**, **Jenny Reidy-Crofts** and **Kate Detchon** all helped with the registration desk. Also involved were two new postdocs recently arrived from overseas. **Sheena Cotter** arrived from the UK (University of Stirling) to start a project looking at *Helicoverpa* resistance in wild chickpea species, while **Yasmin Cardoza** arrived from Honduras via the US (University of Florida) to investigate aphid resistance mechanisms in lupins.

Congratulations to **Rob Creasy**, an honours student at UWA, who won the student poster competition! **James Ridsdill-Smith**, though not working at the conference, was still involved by being appointed as the new President of the society. James also helped to organise the Plant Protection Symposium at the International Plant Breeding Conference in Perth the week before the AES meeting. The week before that, our weed biocontrol group (**John Scott, Kathryn Batchelor, Paul Yeoh**) were involved with the Australian Weeds Conference, especially the Weed Biocontrol Symposium and Workshop, also held in Perth. Special congratulations to **Tim Woodburn**, who received the Council of Australian Weed Science Societies Medal at the conference. **John Scott** only recently returned to Perth from four years at the European laboratory in Montpellier, France. Welcome back, John!

John Matthiessen also recently returned from Europe where he attended the 10th IUPAC International Congress on the Chemistry of Crop Protection in Basel, Switzerland in early August, and presented an invited paper in the pesticide environmental fate section. This was followed by visits to various research institutions in the US .

Partly because of the local conferences, CSIRO Entomology in Perth was a popular spot for overseas visitors in August and September. **Keith Hopper** from the USDA-ARS visited **Owain Edwards** in August to conduct experiments on aphid dispersal using trace element markers. Keith also visited **Rick Roush** in Adelaide (Weeds CRC), then met up with Owain in Melbourne to visit **Dave Heckel** (University of Melbourne) to discuss *Helicoverpa* genetics. **Hari Sharma** from ICRISAT in India attended the plant breeding conference, and also visited with **James Ridsdill-Smith** and **Krishna Mann** to discuss their collaborative project on *Helicoverpa* resistance in chickpeas. **Sharron Quisenberry**, a world expert on aphid resistance mechanisms, visited CSIRO Entomology as part of her trip to WA as an invited keynote speaker at the Plant Breeding Conference. Visiting **John Matthiessen** on a McMaster Fellowship in September was **Sandro Palmieri**, Director of the Biochemistry Section of the Industrial Crops Research Institute at Bologna, Italy. Sandro's group are world authorities on the biochemistry of glucosinolates, the precursors of the wide variety of toxic isothiocyanates in brassicas, being harnessed for biofumigation. John organised a biofumigation workshop at the same time, for interstate and local participants to review recent significant developments and share ideas.

Tara Simmul officially left CSIRO in August, but will continue collaborating with **John Matthiessen** until the completion of their project investigating control methods for *Heteronyx* root-feeding pests in newly established *Eucalyptus globulus* plantations in SW Western Australia. Tara is now working with Serve-Ag WA.

Finally, **Steve Clement** from Washington State University and the USDA-ARS Genetic Resource Center arrived in Perth for a three month GRDC-funded fellowship to join the group investigating sources of Helicoverpa resistance in wild chickpea relatives.

WA Museum

Older Museum staff were saddened to learn of the death (on 25 September) of **Harry Baker** who had worked as an Honorary Associate in the Museum's Entomology Section for many years. Harry was well

known for his enthusiasm for weevils.
In September, **Terry Houston** made a further fieldtrip to study the ways of sandgropers, visiting farms and bushlands in the Geraldton to Kalbarri region. His investigations so far indicate that the sandgropers are omnivorous creatures that breed for all or most of the year.
The meeting of the Council of Heads of Australian Entomological Collections and the AES annual conference brought a number of visitors to the Museum's Entomology Section. These included **Graham Brown, John MacDonald** and **Melissa Bell**.

Tara SIMMUL

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

This is my first news report since taking over from Ray Kumar as PNG Councillor. Ray is now in the United States but still wishes to return to PNG to complete his 2nd edition of the book on 'pests of agriculture in PNG'.
At present I am trying to touch base with other entomologists here in PNG and also talking to **Roy Masamdu** about setting up a Newsletter for the 'fledgling' PNG Crop Protection Society. This Society was formed following a workshop earlier this year comprising plant protection Officers from NARI, NAQIA, CCRI, CRI, Ramu Sugar, OPRA, FPDC, Vudal University, Unitech and UPNG. The next Society meeting is scheduled for July 2003 at Vudal University in Rabaul.
Oribius weevils are endemic, polyphagous pests of horticultural crops in the highlands of PNG. An ACIAR funded project commenced in July 2002 and will be co-ordinated by **Tony Clarke** QUT and **Roy Masamdu** (NARI). **David Putulan** (NARI, Aiyura) will be working on this project to be based at Aiyura, Eastern Highlands Province. An outbreak of sweet potato weevil has been reported from the Highlands as a result of the prolonged present drought (El Nino?). Sweet potato is considered a staple food item in the Highlands.
David Putulan attended the International Diptera Conference in Brisbane in September. **Mark Ero** (NARI Kilakila) had 2 weeks attachment training at the Queensland museum with **Geoff Montieth** on *Oribius* weevil identification. In June, **Roy Masamdu** (NARI Lae), **Otto Ngere** and **Silvia Kurika** (NARI Rabaul) had a week's hands-on training with **Richard Milner** (CSIRO, Canberra) on mass production of *Metarhizium*. This training is useful for the mass production of this pathogen for the control of taro beetles (*Papuana* spp.) in PNG.
The PNG fruitfly project was reviewed in August when **Dick Drew** (Griffith Uni), **Stuart Smith** (Darwin), **Tony Clarke** (QUT), **Emma Vueti** (SPC Fiji) visited with colleagues from PNG **Fred Dori**, **Roy Masamdu**, **Sim Sar**, **Solomon Balagawi**, **David Putulan**, **Mark Ero** and **David Tenakanai** (NAQIA). Stuart was formerly entomologist at LAES Kerevat and this visit has enabled him to touch base again with some old friends.
Warea Orapa (formerly NARI) working on biological control of *Chromoleana odorata* has left to join SPC PPS, Fiji. **Grahaeme Donnelly**, QDNR, Allan Fletcher Research Station visited Lae in August to discuss an ongoing project on biological control of *Chromolaena odorata*. **Jan Brethaupt** FAO, Rome visited Bubia and Kerevat Research Stations and presented seminars on Ecoport.

Lastus KUNIATA

NOTICES

Aussie Mossies

A beautiful full colour poster of Australian mosquitoes has been produced and is available for purchase. It has the side views of 72 different species (all to scale) and includes the recently revised species names. There are maps incorporated for each species demonstrating their currently known distribution. The poster measures 1.0 x 0.7m, with the images taken by and the identifications authenticated by, the internationally renowned mosquito researcher, Richard Russell.
Included are mosquitoes from the tropical north and temperate south, and the most common pest and vector species from all States and Territories. The poster will be useful for education and health promotion campaigns, and will look terrific on your office or laboratory wall! The ideal wedding/birthday gift, a must for your child's school projects, give them to your loved ones to show how much you care!
All money raised supports research within the Department of Medical Entomology, Westmead Hospital. The price of the poster is $16.50 (inc. $1.50 GST), postage to anywhere in Australia is $6.50. Make cheques payable to " The University of Sydney, c/o Richard C. Russell" (Sorry no credit card facility), and mail to: Department of Medical Entomology, Level 3, ICPMR, Westmead Hospital, Westmead NSW 2145.
Stephen Doggett
<Stephend@icpmr.wsahs.nsw.gov.au>

Stored Products Conference

International Conference on Controlled Atmosphere and Fumigation in Stored Products. 8-13 August 2004, Gold Coast, Queensland. Information available at: <www.caf2004.com>

THE AUSTRALIAN ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY INC.
NOMINATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Please return to: Ms Nancy Endersby, AES Secretary, c/o Institute for Horticultural Development, Private Bag 15, Ferntree Gully Delivery Centre VIC 3156 AUSTRALIA

We, the undersigned

Proposer .....
(print name) (signature)

Seconder .....
(print name) (signature)
being financial members of the Society, propose the following for membership of the Australian Entomological Society Inc.

Title.....Initials.....Given name.....Family name.....

of (Address) .....

.....Post Code.....

Tel. .....Fax .....

E-mail ..... Degrees, etc. .....

Interests, experience and publications in entomology for publication in the News Bulletin *Myrmecia* (please attach brief resumé) .....

I accept nomination and undertake, if elected, to abide by the rules of the Society and to pay annual subscriptions by the date prescribed.

Signature .....**Date** .....

For **2003**: Annual subscription $110.00; full-time student or retired members $55.00 (incl. GST)

Students please attach proof of full-time student status
Payment in Australian dollars is required with nomination and may be made by MONEY ORDER, CHEQUE (made payable to Australian Entomological Society Inc.) or CREDIT CARD

Bankcard Visa Mastercard

Cardholder Name _____
Number _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ Expiry date _ _/_ _

Signature _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ I require a receipt YES/ NO